

WORLD WAR HULK™

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GAMMA™ FILES

Head Writer/Coordinator**Jeff Christiansen****Writers**

**Sean McQuaid, Stephen Faulkner,
Al Sjoerdsma, Ronald Byrd,
Madison Carter, Gabe Shechter,
Eric J. Moreels, Stuart Vandal,
Michael Hoskin, David Wiltfong
& Chris Biggs**

Cover Art**Marko Djurdjevic****Art Reconstruction****Pond Scum****Select Coloring****Tom Smith****Editors****Jeff Youngquist & Jennifer Grünwald****Associate Editor****Mark D. Beazley****Assistant Editors****Michael Short & Cory Levine****Copy Editor****Brian Overton****Senior Vice President of Sales****David Gabriel****Production****Jerron Quality Color****Editor in Chief****Joe Quesada****Publisher****Dan Buckley****For more Hulk-related profiles, please see the following Handbooks:**

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 Damage Report
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 Battle Damage Report

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Ross, "Thunderbolt" - Hulk 2004
Ryker, General - Hulk 2004
Sakaar - Planet Hulk: Gladiator Guidebook
Savage Land - X-Men 2005
Scorpion (Carmilla Black) - All-New OHOTMU A-Z #8
Shadow People - Planet Hulk: Gladiator Guidebook
Shaper of Worlds - All-New OHOTMU A-Z Update #2
Skee, Lavin - Planet Hulk: Gladiator Guidebook
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Speedfreak - All-New OHOTMU A-Z Update #1
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Talbot, Glenn - Hulk 2004
They Who Wield Power - Marvel Legacy 1970s
Thing - Fantastic Four 2005, Civil War Files
Titannus - All-New OHOTMU A-Z #11
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Tyrannus - Hulk 2004
U-Foes - Hulk 2004, New Avengers: Most Wanted Files
Vand, Primus - Planet Hulk: Gladiator Guidebook
Verdugo, Sandra - Hulk 2004
Wendigo - Hulk 2004
Wildebots - Planet Hulk: Gladiator Guidebook
Wolverine - X-Men 2004, Wolverine 2004, Secret War:
 From the Files of Nick Fury, X-Men: The 198 Files, Civil
 War Files, Civil War: Battle Damage Report
Xemnu - Marvel Monsters: From the Files of
 Ulysses Bloodstone
Zzzax - Hulk 2004, New Avengers: Most Wanted Files

The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe Frequently Asked Questions page — including data corrections and explanations, complete bibliographies, and Power Grid legends:

<http://www.marvel.com/universe/OHOTMU>

Special thanks to the guys at the Appendix (www.marvunapp.com), Tom Brevoort, Mark Gruenwald, Mike Fichera, Robert Kirkman, Greg Pak, Mark Paniccia, Peter Sanderson, Brandon Seifert, William Uchtman & www.g-mart.com

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BLACK BOLT

HISTORY: Born to the long-hidden Inhuman race in their secluded community Attilan, Blackagar Boltagon is the son of two prominent Inhuman geneticists: Agon, head of the ruling Council of Genetics, and Rynda, director of the Prenatal Care Center. While many Inhumans are subjected to the mutagenic Terrigen Mists, Blackagar was exposed in utero, resulting in greater than normal abilities. As an infant, he could not control his energy manipulation abilities — he threw a simple temper tantrum while being studied in a lab and nearly destroyed Attilan with the destructive sonic energy of his vocal cords. Found in the rubble of the collapsed lab, Black Bolt had survived by shielding himself with a high-density electron force field. For the protection of all Inhumans, Black Bolt was placed inside a soundproof chamber and given an energy-harnessing suit while he was taught to control his abilities. Released at age 19, he was reunited with his cousins and his brother Maximus, who immediately attacked him, hoping to force Black Bolt to speak and prove he was unworthy of being king. With the aid of Black Bolt's cousins, Maximus was knocked unconscious, and Black Bolt proved himself worthy of his future title.

Shortly after rejoining his family, Black Bolt learned of Maximus' treacherous alliance with the alien Kree, whose prehistoric experiments had created the Inhuman race. Black Bolt used his forbidden power to stop the escaping Kree ship, which crashed into the parliament building, killing several members of the Genetics Council including Black Bolt's parents. Despite his guilt, Black Bolt was obligated to become the Inhumans' monarch. Fearful humans later captured Black Bolt's fish-like cousin Triton, who escaped and reported that the humans were violent and uncivilized. Realizing the Inhumans' island home of Attilan could be in danger if discovered, Black Bolt decided to move Attilan and its people to the Himalayan mountains. Soon after, Maximus used his "psycho-power" to control three Alpha-Primitives, the Inhumans' worker class, subjecting them to the Terrigen Mists to transform them into energy beings collectively called "Trikon." The Trikon then controlled the remaining Alpha Primitives and helped Maximus kidnap numerous Inhumans as hostages, all to blackmail Black Bolt into giving Maximus the throne. Black Bolt's betrothed, Medusa, was separated from her family. Maximus then exiled the remaining Royal Family. After several years, Black Bolt was reunited with Medusa and initially battled the heroic Fantastic Four, who ultimately helped Black Bolt defeat Maximus and reclaim his crown.

While exploring the outside world, the Royal Family again met the FF, helping them rescue their leader Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards) from the Negative Zone. While traveling in Wakanda, Black Bolt met the Wakandan king, T'Challa, aka the Black Panther and helped him defeat the villainous Sandman (William Baker) and Psycho Man. When the monstrous Hulk (Bruce Banner) wandered near Attilan and battled the Inhumans, Black Bolt fought the Hulk briefly before offering his hand in friendship as fellow outcasts of humanity. Black Bolt repeatedly clashed with Maximus, who tricked the Royal Family into believing the FF had attacked Attilan, then manipulated the Silver Surfer and the Inhumans against each other. Using his mental powers to erase Black Bolt's memories when Black Bolt was in the outside world, Maximus took control of Attilan while the Royal Family searched for their king.

Believing Black Bolt was a mutant, the mutant criminal Magneto kidnapped the Royal Family to force the Inhumans into his war with humanity. As Magneto tried to sap Black Bolt's will, the other Inhumans escaped and attacked. Black Bolt regained his memories, broke free and bested the villain. Later, Black Bolt subdued the Hulk after some Inhumans had provoked a returning Bruce Banner. Realizing the near-unstoppable Hulk would soon awaken, Black Bolt sent him in a rocket into space, where he landed on the High Evolutionary's Counter-Earth. In the following months, Black Bolt and the other Inhumans faced such threats as the Negative Zone's Blastaar; Kree agent Shatterstar (Arides); Maximus and his rogue Inhumans; a civil war amongst the alien

REAL NAME: Blackagar Boltagon

ALIASES: None

IDENTITY: No dual identity; Black Bolt (a shortened form of his full name) seldom appears unmasked

OCCUPATION: Monarch of the Inhumans

CITIZENSHIP: Attilan

PLACE OF BIRTH: Island of Attilan, Atlantic Ocean

KNOWN RELATIVES: Medusalith Boltagon (Medusa, wife/cousin), Ahura (son), Maximus (brother), Agon (father, deceased), Rynda (mother, deceased), Gorgon, Karnak, Triton (cousins), Crystalia Maximoff (Crystal, sister-in-law/cousin), Pietro Maximoff (Quicksilver, brother-in-law), Luna Maximoff (niece), extensive extended family

GROUP AFFILIATION: Inhuman Royal Family, formerly the "Illuminati"

EDUCATION: Royal tutors of Attilan

FIRST APPEARANCE: Fantastic Four #45 (1965)



Stenth; and another unwanted battle with the Hulk, which ended with the Hulk once again considering the Inhumans his friends. Black Bolt next teamed with the Kree super hero Captain Mar-Vell and defeated the Sphinx (Anath-Na Mut) with the FF's aid. After the interstellar Kree-Skrull war almost destroyed Earth, Black Bolt joined several of Earth's leading superhumans (the "Illuminati") gathered in the hopes of secretly working to prevent future disasters. When a mysterious plague struck the Inhumans, Mr. Fantastic identified pollution as the cause and created a temporary antidote, and the FF aided the Inhumans in relocating Attilan to the hospitable Blue Area of the Moon.

After years of courtship, Black Bolt and Medusa were finally married despite Kree and Skrull soldiers Bel-Dann and Raksor's ongoing struggle threatening to ruin the wedding. Medusa soon became pregnant, causing great controversy since Inhuman law forbade reproduction without careful genetic studies and approval by the Genetics Council; the Council immediately ordered the baby's destruction fearing the baby would inherit his father's destructive powers or his uncle's madness. When Black Bolt stood by the Council's decision, Medusa fled to Earth to give birth to their son; Black Bolt came to Earth and met his son for the first time. Returning to Attilan, Medusa and Black Bolt presented their son, named Ahura, to the Genetics Council. The council rescinded their death order, but promised to study the baby very carefully. Soon after, when the mutant conqueror Apocalypse (En Sabah Nur) recruited several Inhumans into his "Riders of the Storm," he took control of Attilan. Black Bolt and the remaining Inhumans teamed with the mutant super-hero team X-Factor to defeat Apocalypse. When it was discovered that the Inhumans' Genetics Council was corrupt, attempting to brainwash Ahura, Black Bolt and the Royal Family defeated the Council. They then rejected their royal status and moved to Earth. When the artificial environment was changed in the Blue Area of the Moon, the Inhumans nearly suffocated; however, the FF shrank the city and returned it to Earth, placing it on the recently risen land of Atlantis, with Black Bolt once again ruling.

Black Bolt's fork-shaped antenna was damaged in battle and could no longer help control his powers, driving him temporarily insane and causing him to attack his family and friends before he was finally subdued. Mr. Fantastic and Psi-Lord (Franklin Richards) repaired the damage, enabling a full recovery. Soon after, Ahura was placed in protective custody by the Genetics Council, who had determined that he suffered from the same insanity as Maximus. Black Bolt and Medusa were forbidden to speak of their son from then on. With ancient ruins and artifacts still on Atlantis, various governments began making claims to the land, and a large group of Portuguese mercenaries attacked Attilan's protective barriers. Not wishing anyone harm, Black Bolt devised a plan that ended with Atlantis back under water, and Attilan secretly moved once again to the Himalayas. Attilan was soon removed from Earth completely by the Kree fanatic Ronan the Accuser, who transported it into space and placed Black Bolt and the Inhumans under his control in his war with the alien Shi'ar; however, Black Bolt soon led his people to freedom. Black Bolt and the Royal Family returned to Earth, asking for sanctuary, but the United Nations would only allow them to resettle on the Blue Area of the moon. Trying to foster better relationships with humanity, Black Bolt agreed to a cultural exchange initiative with the USA, sending a group of young Inhumans to Earth to study, socialize and acclimate themselves with humanity, and bring what they learned back to Attilan.

When a mass super-villain prison breakout occurred at the "Raft", Black Bolt and the rest of the "Illuminati" asked Iron Man why he had not notified them; this led to discussions regarding the supremely powerful Sentry (Bob Reynolds) and a battle involving Black Bolt and several of Earth's heroes against the Sentry's evil alter-ego, the Void. Mr. Fantastic had the "Illuminati" gather the powerful Infinity Gems, with Black Bolt assigned to protect and hide the Power Gem. Black

Bolt was later one of the "Illuminati" members who decided to send the Hulk to a distant, uninhabited planet to prevent his destructive rampages on Earth. The spacecraft was unexpectedly redirected to the savage planet Sakaar, where the Hulk was forced to become a gladiator. Meanwhile, insane ex-mutant Quicksilver stole the Terrigen Mists from the Inhumans, indirectly causing them to fall into the hands of the United States government. When the government refused the Inhumans' demand for their return, Black Bolt declared war on the United States. Initially a "cold war," this escalated when Inhumans caused the deaths of several civilians.

On Sakaar, the Hulk achieved contentment as the planet's new ruler until the spacecraft that brought him there blew up, causing mass destruction and apparently killing the Hulk's new wife and their unborn child. Crazy with grief and rage and obsessed with vengeance, Hulk declared all-out war on the heroes who had sent him into space. Choosing Black Bolt as the first to fall, the Hulk brutally beat him into submission, had him fitted with a Sakaarian slave disc and forced him to battle his fellow "Illuminati." Meanwhile, Maximus, from imprisonment, took advantage of the situation of the war of the Mists and asserted mental control over many Inhumans, including Medusa, and secured the release of both he and Ahura from their confinements. Despite his marital strife, Black Bolt led attacks to retrieve the Mists on Earth, then fought Terrigen-enhanced humans in Attilan, an attack that led to Attilan's near destruction. Though the Mists were returned, Maximus, with the Inhumans (except for Black Bolt and Luna) in his thrall, ruled Attilan once again.

HEIGHT: 6'2"

EYES: Blue

WEIGHT: 210 lbs.

HAIR: Black

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Black Bolt's Terrigen-mutated physique surpasses the superhuman physique of typical Inhumans: his strength (lifting up to 1 ton), stamina, durability and reflexes are all slightly superhuman, and his speed and agility are enhanced. An organic mechanism in his brain's speech center produces an unknown particle that interacts with ambient electrons, enabling him to produce certain mentally controlled phenomena. The most devastating of the effects is Black Bolt's quasi-sonic scream. Because his electron-harnessing ability is linked to the speech center of his brain, any attempt to use his vocal cords triggers an uncontrollable disturbance of the particle/electron interaction field. At full strength, his voice generates a shockwave equivalent to a nuclear weapon's, while a whisper can rock a battleship. The fork-like antenna worn upon his forehead helps Black Bolt control his powers. He can channel his powers inward to increase his strength (lifting up to 60 tons) and speed, and can focus it through his arms as concussive blasts. Black Bolt is capable of channeling all available energy into one devastating punch called his Master Blow, which renders him extremely vulnerable subsequently. By concentrating his electrons into anti-electrons, he can fly at speeds up to 500 mph for a period of 6 hours, protected by an anti-graviton field. Black Bolt can create a nearly impenetrable force field by focusing his energy around himself, and can use his electron abilities as extrasensory probes, highly sensitive to electromagnetic phenomena; he can also jam certain electromagnetic mechanisms. Though exhausting, he can create particle/electron interaction fields solid enough to be traversed upon. His immunity to disease is inferior to human immunity.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH*							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

*AMPLIFIED BY ENERGY POWERS

CAIERA THE OLDSTRONG

HISTORY: Caiera was one of the Shadow People, an extraterrestrial race who helped colonize the planet Sakaar. The Shadow People are linked to a primordial power that enables them to tap into the planet for additional strength. The elders among the Shadows who raised Caiera recognized the Old Power in her and began her training. When she was 13, the extraterrestrial parasites called the Spikes overran her village, consuming her family and many others. Caiera was saved by Prince Angmo II of the Imperial peoples, who planted an obedience disc into her so that she would be forced to serve him. Caiera eventually grew to become a lieutenant in the Imperial Guard. When Angmo II succeeded to the Imperial throne as the Red King, he made Caiera his Warbound Shadow, honoring the treaties between his people and the Shadow elders.

After over 30 years of serving the Red King, Caiera met a formidable opponent when the Hulk was brought to Sakaar by the meddling Shadow Elders, who hoped to fulfill their peoples' prophecies of the messianic Sakaarson by forcibly drawing such a person to their world. Enslaved as a gladiator, the Hulk emerged victorious in combat, but the Red King and Caiera personally defeated him when he tried to fight them. As the Hulk became a famous personality on Sakaar through his gladiatorial victories, Caiera attempted to buy him off by offering him a chance to retire in peace, but the Hulk refused her offer. Caiera helped arrange for the imprisoned Silver Surfer to be pitted against the Hulk, but the Hulk won the fight, destroying the Surfer's obedience disc in the process. Caiera then demanded that Hulk and his fellow Warbound gladiators kill imprisoned enemies of the Red King, but they refused, and the Surfer ultimately neutralized the gladiators' obedience discs, making the Hulk a rebel leader.

Caiera led forces in attempts to defeat the Hulk's army, but when she finally faced him in personal combat, the Red King interfered by releasing Spikes into the area. Caiera helped the Hulk fight the Spikes and tried to obtain the Red King's aid in protecting the village of An-Sara, but instead the Red King dropped deathfire bombs on the village. Caiera survived the bombing and the Red King's disregard for his own subjects' lives convinced her to switch her allegiance and join the Hulk's Warbound. Caiera aided the Warbound in combating the Red King's forces, and the emperor was finally slain.

The Hulk was named successor to the throne by popular acclaim, and he chose Caiera as his queen. Before they were wed, she had him reveal his greatest secret to her — his other identity as Bruce Banner, and she loved Banner as well as the Hulk. Caiera became pregnant with the Hulk's child, and they hoped to usher in a new age of cooperation among the many peoples of Sakaar; however, when the SHIELD vessel which brought the Hulk to Sakaar suddenly exploded, Caiera was caught in the blast, which

REAL NAME: Caiera

ALIASES: None

IDENTITY: No dual identity; Caiera's existence was unknown to Earth's general populace

OCCUPATION: Queen of Sakaar; former first lieutenant of the Imperial Guard and personal bodyguard to the Red King

CITIZENSHIP: Sakaar

PLACE OF BIRTH: The Great Desert, planet Sakaar, Tayo Star System, Fornax Galaxy

KNOWN RELATIVES: Robert Bruce Banner (Hulk, husband), Brian Banner (father-in-law, deceased), Rebecca Banner (mother-in-law, deceased), unidentified parents (deceased); extended family via marriage

GROUP AFFILIATION: Hulk's Warbound; formerly Sakaar Imperial Guard

EDUCATION: Tutored by Imperial military strategists

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #92 (2006)

destroyed Crown City. She died in the Hulk's arms, and her body was consumed by the planet's erupting lava. With Caiera's passing, the Old Power was transferred to Hiroim the Shamed of the Hulk's Warbound.



HEIGHT: 7'

EYES: Green

WEIGHT: 270 lbs.

HAIR: Black

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Caiera was extensively practiced in meditation, battle tactics, and both armed and unarmed combat. Possessed by the Old Power, she could render her body more durable than stone and draw increased strength from the planet itself. She also wore armor and wielded daggers and swords that were crafted from the near-indestructible Shadowforge metal.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

Art by Carlo Pagulayan

CAPTAIN OMEN

REAL NAME: Nathaniel Omen
ALIASES: Pater
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Ruler of the Infra-World
CITIZENSHIP: Infra-World; otherwise unrevealed
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: Filius (son, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Infra-Worlders
EDUCATION: Unrevealed, but seemingly extensive
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #164 (1973)

HISTORY: Over a half-century ago, the megalomaniacal Nathaniel Omen decided to claim the entirety of Earth's oceans as his private territory. Likening himself to a gold prospector, he resolved to survey and mark the whole ocean floor, imagining this would establish his possession rights. To this end, he constructed the Infra-World, a gargantuan submarine with over a dozen decks, thousands of feet long, capable of producing and storing massive quantities of oxygen and power, able to house a population of hundreds. Omen, his crew of like-minded sailors and their wives embarked upon their undersea endeavor 6 miles below the ocean surface, leaving behind the surface bases Omen had used in constructing his new world. Over years of travel, the Infra-World's population gradually increased. Well aware that his project would take decades to complete, Omen caused his crew's children and his own son Filius to mutate into large, stocky forms able to endure the weight of tons of ocean pressure. As a result, the two generations eventually came to inhabit different decks equipped for their physiologies. As Omen's original sailors retired from duty, the mutated Infra-Worlders took their place as his crew upon reaching adulthood. At some point, the Infra-Worlders captured and domesticated several toad-whales, hundred-foot sea creatures that the Infra-Worlders used to travel outside the Infra-World as needed, their oxygen supplied by special helmets controlled by Omen. Omen apparently maintained no underwater vehicles with which any crew member could abscond; the need for toad-whale riders to rely upon him for their helmets' function

prevented them from abandoning the Infra-World. Omen also created the immensely powerful human-shark hybrid Aquon, whom he used as a secret worker and enforcer when necessary.

Thoroughly dedicated to his mission, Omen ruled the Infra-Worlders with iron discipline, and most of them were content to labor on his behalf; however, several younger crew members, including Filius, grew dissatisfied with their lot and were fascinated by the surface world Omen had forsaken, a world none of them had ever seen. The Infra-World's Vista Rooms, which simulated the surface conditions the crew had left behind, only sharpened the younger generation's longing for it. Eventually, the rebels organized as the Children of the New Order, biding their time until a means of escaping Omen's rule presented itself. In recent years, the Infra-World's travels brought it to the scene of an Arctic clash between the Hulk and the U.S. submarine "Trident," which the Hulk, unaware it contained a human crew, had severely damaged. Omen had the submarine and the Hulk brought aboard the Infra-World, and the submarine crew was placed in detention. Omen hoped to harness the Hulk's phenomenal power for his own ends, and when the Hulk rebelled, Omen manipulated him into leaving the Infra-World's protection. Now reliant upon one of Omen's helmets, the Hulk trod the ocean floor, following the Infra-World, but Filius secretly brought him aboard. With the Hulk as a rallying figure, the Children of the New Order rebelled against Omen, and when the Hulk defeated Aquon, Omen acquiesced and brought the Infra-World to the surface, allowing the Hulk and the rebels to depart in remote-controlled scout ships. Tragically, the Infra-Worlders' altered physiologies caused their bodies to explode under their own pressure after only a few minutes on the surface. Mourning Filius and his followers, Omen presumably returned the "Trident" crew to the surface soon afterward, then resumed his self-imposed and seemingly endless mission.



HEIGHT: 4'11"
EYES: Black
WEIGHT: 109 lbs.
HAIR: Bald

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Captain Omen is an extraordinary genius capable of creating the Infra-World and adapting its resources as necessary. Unlike his crew, he can survive both surface conditions and deep ocean pressures unharmed, although it is unclear if this is a physical ability or a technology-based attribute of his attire. He wields a disciplinary lash when necessary. The Infra-World, built to endure decades beneath the ocean without returning to the surface, is equipped with tractor beams, gigantic tentacles and other capabilities. Any breach in its hull can be sealed with quick-hardening waterproof foam.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

Art by Herb Trimpe

HISTORY: Gamma Corps is a rogue superhuman military unit organized by General John Ryker and comprised of gamma-mutated humans who seek revenge upon the similarly mutated man-monster Hulk (Bruce Banner), blaming him for various tragedies in their lives. Shortly after the Hulk first appeared, General "Thunderbolt" Ross held a meeting, which General Ryker attended. Having just learned that his wife Lucy had been diagnosed with cancer, Ryker was interested in capturing and studying the Hulk to see if his fast-healing physiology could help cure diseases. Using blood collected from the Hulk's first encounter with Wolverine, Lucy's cancer was wiped out, but the gamma residue in her system caused it to return a hundred-fold later, mutating her. After initially trying to destroy Bruce Banner's life, including sending the gamma-irradiated Flux (Benny Tibbetts) against him, General Ryker was forced into hiding while elite intelligence agency SHIELD hunted him.

During this time, Ryker located and recruited five individuals who blamed the Hulk for tragedies in their own lives. He offered each the chance for revenge if they accepted being transformed into gamma-mutated beings themselves. The five included: Brian Talbot, younger brother of Major Glenn Talbot, who died battling the Hulk; Nichole Martin, a Floridian housewife whose young son was killed when a truck thrown into the air during a battle between the Hulk and the Abomination crashed into their car; Gideon Wilson, father of the Hulk's late sidekick Jim Wilson, who had died from AIDS-related complications; Timmy Wilkerson, who remained in a vegetative state since birth after suffering a massive stroke in the womb shortly after his parents encountered the Hulk; and finally, Eliot Franklin, the professional criminal and one-time member of the Circus of Crime known as the Clown, who had been defeated repeatedly by the Hulk. Each received DNA treatments taken from various gamma-irradiated beings. Talbot became Grey, a Hulk-like being with the Leader's intellect. Martin, who lost two of her limbs and other body parts in her accident, received Abomination DNA. This caused her missing and injured body parts to regrow, but in the likeness of the Abomination. She was given the codename Mess. Wilson, infused with DNA from Doc Samson, became Mr. Gideon and found his powers were derived in opposite from Samson's, in that he could not grow his hair out and still retain his strength. Wilkerson was artificially aged several years to a young teen and received Leader DNA as well, bringing him out of his coma-like state and granting him vast intelligence as Prodigy. The insane Franklin was turned into the monstrous Griffin using DNA samples collected from the Harpy (Betty Ross). Of the five, only Grey and Griffin appear capable of reverting back to their human forms.

Loyal to Ryker, the new Gamma Corps trained in preparation to combat the Hulk. However, the Hulk was exiled to an alien world by Tony Stark and the other members of the "Illuminati" in a bid to grant their old friend peace away from mankind. With his ultimate target now gone, Ryker redirected his focus and utilized the Corps to pursue his other agendas. They were sent to South America to infiltrate a Hydra base where Ryker's previous gamma experiment, Flux, was being held prisoner. The Corps killed the AIM (Advanced Idea Mechanics) agents holding Flux, including some using black market Crimson Dynamo armor. Once they located Flux, they assassinated him on Ryker's order. In the midst of this operation, Ryker learned that the Hulk had returned to Earth, leading the Warbound, an army of survivors from the planet Sakaar. The Hulk made his presence known in New York, demanding vengeance against Stark and the "Illuminati" for exiling him and causing the destruction

MEMBERS: Grey (Brian Talbot), Griffin (Eliot Franklin), Mess (Nicole Martin), Mr. Gideon (Gideon Wilson), Prodigy (Timmy Wilkerson)

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Area 51

FIRST APPEARANCE: World War Hulk: Gamma Corps #1 (2007)

of Sakaar. Ryker saw this as his opportunity to strike, and sent the team to confront the Hulk.

It remains to be seen how Ryker's Gamma Corps plan to defeat a Hulk angrier than at any point in time. Ryker holds many secrets regarding the Gamma Corps that even they are not aware of, and this may prove pivotal in the upcoming struggle.

GENERAL RYKER



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MISTER GIDEON, GREY, GRIFFIN, MESS & PRODIGY

GAMMA MUTATES

Gamma rays are the most powerful wavelength in the electromagnetic spectrum. Exposure usually causes disease, cancer or even death; however, in rare cases, gamma radiation can trigger the development of inhuman or superhuman traits, transforming ordinary humans into gamma mutates. While gamma rays are invisible to the naked eye, many gamma mutates take on a green hue. A gamma mutate's specific physical transformation is allegedly affected by each mutate's subconscious.



The **Hulk** (Bruce Banner) was perhaps Earth's first gamma mutate. Designing and testing a gamma bomb, Banner was exposed to a massive dose of gamma rays while saving testing ground trespasser Rick Jones. Also cursed with dissociative identity disorder, Banner has demonstrated multiple forms and personae, but is still widely regarded as Earth's mightiest mortal. His physical power increases with his anger.

The **Leader** (Samuel Sterns) was a laborer transformed by gamma exposure into a hyper-intelligent form. He soon became one of the Hulk's most dangerous foes, seeking to use the Hulk's strength for his own ends, such as gamma-mutating all humanity.



The **Abomination** (Emil Blonsky) was a communist spy who used Banner's gamma ray projector to mutate himself into a monstrously powerful form to escape capture. He has remained one of the Hulk's greatest foes; stronger than the Hulk's baseline level, he is nonetheless unable to match the Hulk's rage-enhanced savage power.



Doc Samson (Leonard Samson) is a renowned psychiatrist who used his Cathexis-Ray to drain the gamma radiation from Bruce Banner's body into Betty Ross, who had been turned into glass by a transfusion from the Sandman (William Baker). Both Ross and Banner were cured by the treatment, and Samson used the leftover gamma radiation to transform himself into a super-strong virtual Adonis. Fearing Betty now loved Samson, Banner re-exposed himself to gamma rays, becoming the Hulk again and soundly beating Samson. Samson's powers have fluctuated over the years, varying directly with his hair length. He has repeatedly encountered the Hulk as either ally or opponent, his psychiatric skills sometimes helping to control the Hulk's varying personalities and emotions.



The **Crawling Unknown** began as Morton Clegstead, a distinguished veteran US senator, largely responsible for the initial construction of the US military's Project Greenskin/Hulkbuster Base. After contracting terminal cancer, Clegstead contacted Dr. Alvin Lathrop, who theorized that the gamma-irradiated blood of the Hulk could cure Clegstead's disease. Clegstead had Project Greenskin reactivated and planted Lathrop as a scientist there to obtain a blood sample. After having the blood sample injected into him, Clegstead briefly felt better, then mutated uncontrollably. His body lost its shape, becoming an amorphous mass of cancer cells, consuming all it came into contact with, growing larger and larger as it did. Unable to stop the Crawling Unknown with strength, the frustrated Hulk stabbed it with a flagpole, which attracted a subsequent lighting bolt, killing the creature.



The **Harpy** was Betty Ross. When her then-newlywed husband, Glen Talbot, was believed dead, she had a nervous breakdown and was captured and mutated by MODOK; she became a monstrous flying bird-woman with powerful talons, able to fire deadly energy blasts. She attacked and subdued the Hulk, but both were captured by the android Bi-Beast, and Betty reverted to normal shortly thereafter.



Ravage (Dr. Geoffrey Crawford) was one of Bruce Banner's physics professors. Seeking a cure for his own condition, Banner found Dr. Crawford suffering from a debilitating neuromuscular disease. Dr. Crawford offered to help Bruce using his new matter reconfiguration telepods to filter out Bruce's gamma mutations. Crawford instead used them to instill those gamma mutations within himself to cure his ailment. Crawford transformed himself into a savage, power hungry monster, calling himself Ravage and — thinking Bruce had intentionally kept these powers to himself — defeated the Hulk before fleeing. At sunrise, Ravage changed back into Dr. Crawford (as Bruce had when he first began changing into the Hulk), his weaknesses returning. Hoping to keep Bruce out of his plans to become Ravage permanently, Crawford turned Banner in to General Ross and Major Glenn Talbot. When Ravage rampaged again at sunset, Ross released Banner to try to reverse Crawford's mutation. Ravage destroyed the telepods to stop this, but was then frozen solid and captured by Gamma Base's Cryo-Inducer. He was taken to Gamma base for study.



Dr. **Hans Feldstadt** was a Swiss scientist who earned the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in gamma radiation. Seeking privacy, Feldstadt left Zurich and leased an abandoned estate in the village Jungfrau where he sought to use gamma radiation to cure disease. Bruce Banner tracked him down, hoping that Feldstadt might cure him from becoming the Hulk. Feldstadt initially rebuffed Banner, but upon learning he was the Hulk — after the Hulk rampaged through Jungfrau — he welcomed his assistance. Banner quickly learned that Feldstadt had little interest in curing him but only in harnessing gamma radiation for his own purposes.irate villagers mistakenly assumed that the monster who had attacked their village came from Feldstadt's research, and they assaulted his estate with flaming torches. Multiple chemical explosions ensued, damaging Feldstadt's gamma projector and mutating Feldstadt into savage, monstrous form. The Hulk subdued Feldstadt and sealed the leaking projector, but Feldstadt's laboratory and notes were destroyed, and Feldstadt was reported dead from a lab accident.



She-Hulk (Jen Walters), the cousin of Bruce Banner, is a lawyer who was shot by criminals and mutated by a life-saving blood transfusion from her visiting cousin Bruce. She developed Hulk-like strength, but mostly retained her mental and emotional stability.

Dr. **Rikky Keegan** was a former classmate of Bruce Banner's duped into assisting the Leader. Believing she was helping the Leader cure Banner from becoming the Hulk, she unwittingly aided his isolation of Banner's "gamma gene" — apparently the factor that caused superhuman mutation with gamma exposure. She discovered this only after the Leader had introduced the gene into Manhattan's water



supply, causing the "Green Flu," the earliest stages of mutation, to sweep the city. Seeking a wife who was his peer, the Leader used the gamma gene to mutate Rikky to mirror his giant-craniumed form. Retaining her own will, Rikky also found that since she had been much smarter than the pre-mutation Leader, her post-mutation form had far superior brain-power. She telekinetically assaulted the Leader and his equipment, aiding the since-escaped Hulk and the Avengers in ending the Flu and teleporting the Leader and herself to their vicinity. The Leader used a hand-blaster on Rikky before being knocked beneath the flooding city waters, causing her to revert to normal.



An unspecified gamma bomb test mutated a plant in the surrounding New Mexico desert. Scavenger Ephraim Soles consumed it, mutated into a monstrous plant form and attacked the Defenders. Iceman destroyed Ephraim's form via dehydration, but **gamma spores** seeded the surrounding area. Shortly

thereafter, Chris Larmouth consumed spore-contaminated plants; mutating, he attacked the Defenders and was cryogenically stopped by Iceman. Other spores then went rampant, coalescing into a monstrous composite of unicellular organisms that consumed earth, plant, air and animal-life in its path. Gargoyle (Isaac Christians) destroyed the composite with a powerful bioelectric blast, but its spores then infected Moondragon. After the spores spread through her body and threatened her life, Moondragon allowed the alien Dragon of the Moon to cleanse her in exchange for succumbing to its evil. A dying Moondragon later used the Beyonder's power to cure Chris Larmouth.



Sirius was a dog dying of bone disease that served as an early test of Bruce Banner's gamma cure. The dog was almost instantly revitalized, the only side effect being a green hue. Sirius swiftly turned savage, however, and had to be killed by his owner after developing super-strength and attacking his family.

Several decades ago, **Max "Hammer" Stryker** was New York's biggest gangster and a mentor to young Wilson Fisk, the future Kingpin. More recently, the aged Stryker developed terminal cancer. By having his agent Boomerang kidnap Kate Waynesboro, Stryker forced Bruce Banner — whose mind then controlled the Hulk — to use gamma radiation to cure him. When Banner subsequently vanished to Battleworld, Stryker began to use Banner's gamma cure on anyone in the city that was suffering from anything. Just as Banner returned and discovered this, many recipients succumbed to radiation poisoning, and Stryker himself was transformed into a super-strong, savage, nearly mindless green monster, who attacked Banner. Banner fought back as the Hulk, but could not match Stryker's fury. Banner ultimately allowed his savage persona reign and



overpowered Stryker. The Spaceknight Rom drained the gamma radiation from Stryker and the others who had taken Banner's gamma cure. Stryker was reverted into an elderly, terminally old man and presumably died soon after.

Hubert St. Johns was an immensely obese but incredibly wealthy and intelligent man. St. Johns hoped to capture the Hulk, seeking to gain his power to overcome his crippling obesity. St. Johns experimented on many human beings, treating them with gamma rays, but they all were terribly mutated into Rejects and slowly



decomposed. St. Johns' agents captured the Hulk and brought him inside his vessel, keeping him sedated with gas. St. Johns then took a sample of the Hulk's blood, and sent the Hulk to destroy the remaining Rejects for him. St. Johns bathed in gamma rays, which amplified his existing body structure into a colossally fat, grotesque monstrosity. St. Johns' body swiftly ruptured, killing him, and decomposed.



The **Rick Jones Hulk** resulted when Rick was knocked into a nutrient bath being used to merge the then-separated Bruce Banner and Hulk. Infused with some of the Hulk's gamma radiation, Rick began transforming into a Hulk-like creature by night. The Rick Jones Hulk sought help from Banner but ended up fighting the Hulk and a General Ross-controlled Zzzax before encountering the Outcasts while seeking sanctuary at Banner's old desert lab. Following battles with the Nevermind (Master Reardon) and the Hulkbusters, Rick returned to normal when his gamma radiation was siphoned to restore the Leader's faded powers. *Note: Rick had previously exposed himself to gamma rays to gain power to help the Hulk against multiple attackers but instead suffered radiation poisoning. Though cured by Banner, he later developed cancer; this was eventually cured by the cosmically powered Beyonder.*



The **Outcasts** are the survivors (and their descendants) of Bruce Banner's original gamma bomb explosion; most animals and plants in the surrounding



desert were killed, but others were transformed into larger, intelligent creatures, some of whom began walking upright and/or learned to speak. Neither accepted by their own kind nor by humans, they eventually settled in Bruce Banner's old desert lab. When Rick Jones was transformed into a version of the Hulk by night, he sought out the desert lab's containment chamber. The Outcasts surprised and overpowered Jones when he entered their home, but welcomed him into their society upon seeing him transform into a gamma creature. Both Rick and his Hulk counterpart befriended and dwelt amongst the Outcasts for days; Rick taught them to use the base's appliances. Bruce Banner came to the desert lab to seek out Rick Jones, and was followed there by SHIELD. In the ensuing battle between the Rick Jones Hulk and SHIELD, many Outcasts were killed. In the aftermath of the battle, the Outcasts, recognizing that men would come hunting for Jones again, asked him to leave their home to prevent further attacks. Known Outcasts include Ech (cactus), Eeek (small mammal), Falco (falcon), Gil (Gila monster), Iggo (rock creature), Kir (bat), Kkk-Kkk (ant), Rattilore (rattlesnake), Sting (scorpion) and Vult (vulture).

Half-Life (Tony Masterson) was once a tenured English professor with a wife until being caught in a government gamma bomb test blast in Colorado. The blast killed him, but only during the daytime; at night, the gamma radiation in his system let him absorb the earth around him and revive as a corpse-like being, able to siphon anyone's life force on contact. Whenever his body was found, it would be reburied, and every night he would reemerge. Eventually, the Leader discovered Half-Life and sent him against the Hulk, whom Half-Life hoped possessed enough energy to allow him to survive all day. Half-Life began to drain the Hulk's energy, but the Hulk ripped off Half-Life's limbs and tossed them far away. Retrieving Half-Life in the morning, the Leader gave him titanium armor to prevent his being ripped apart, and sent him against the Hulk again in order to observe the gray Hulk in action. This time Half-Life absorbed a sizeable amount of the Hulk's life force, leaving him too weak to fight



back. When the Hulk informed Half-Life that his power would wear off and he would be doomed to live out his days in fear of reverting back to his deteriorating body, Half-Life panicked and released all his stolen energy; in the aftermath, only a skeleton remained.



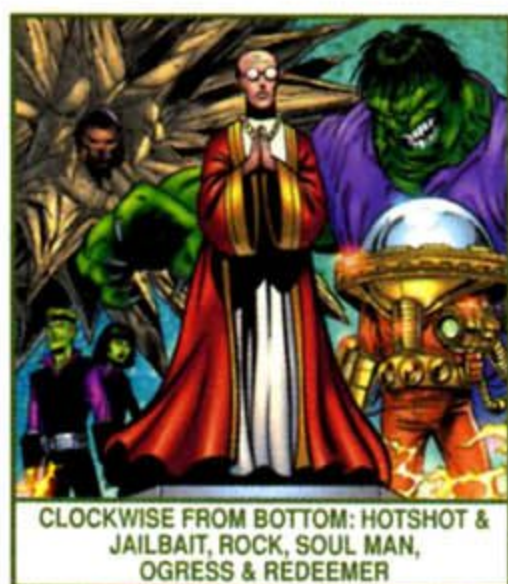
Jason Berg and Cara LeBlanc developed "Secret Warts" after playing with mutated lizards (presumably the Outcasts or the Saurians). Though they kept their mutation secret from all as they worked at the Dickels' dude ranch, they occasionally tested their new powers — projection of devastating energy blasts from their warts — and they discovered Banner's former desert lab, in which they encountered She-Hulk.

The **Abominatrix** (Florence Sharples) was an employee of Jasper Keaton's savings and loan company who participated in a medical experiment to control the effects of pre-menstrual syndrome with gamma radiation, which left her with perpetual PMS and transformed her into a super-strong form similar to the Abomination's. Keaton sent her to kidnap Louise Mason, a retired 1940s super hero thought to have knowledge of a hidden nuclear warhead. Abominatrix kidnapped Mason, but the plan was for naught as Mason was actually unaware of the warhead's location. She-Hulk battled Abominatrix to free Mason, but the warhead was inadvertently activated during their struggle. She-Hulk incapacitated Abominatrix long enough to throw the warhead into the desert, where it detonated harmlessly.



Gamma-Burn (Ethel Gaxton) volunteered for research to use gamma rays in an effort to cure pre-menstrual syndrome. Instead, she was transformed into a super-strong green monster. Unnerved by her appearance, she went to Los Angeles to meet soap opera star Philip Philips, whom she thought would be sympathetic since his TV love interest was a blind handicapped amnesiac; however, Philips was terrified of her. Rampaging through Los Angeles, destroying everything associated with beauty, she even initially overpowered Wonder Man, but he defeated her with another dose of radiation — drawn from his own ionic energy — that reverted her back to her human form. Ethel was happy until learning that Philips had become obsessed with Gamma-Burn, and was not interested in her normal form. She then unsuccessfully tried to revert back to Gamma-Burn.

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The **Riot Squad** is the result of a gamma bomb the Leader detonated in the city of Middletown, Arizona intending to gather the gamma-irradiated survivors as the first of his new race of gamma people. The town of 5000 was completely obliterated except for 5 survivors: Diane Davids, a disillusioned lawyer, was transformed into the monstrous and super-strong Ogress; teenage couple Louis Lambert and Jess Harrison were transformed into Hotshot, who could shoot energy from his hands, and Jailbait, who formed force fields; encyclopedia salesman Burt Horowitz was transformed into the super-intelligent Omnibus; and Father Jason McCall was transformed into the resurrection-powered Soul Man. Unaware of the Leader's villainous nature and his role in destroying

their town, they knew him only as having saved them from Middletown's destruction, and they served him faithfully. When the Hulk had been poisoned by Madman and had less than 24 hours to live, the Leader transported the Hulk to his base, Freehold, to use Hulk as a pawn against Madman. The Riot Squad defended the Leader from the Hulk's attack until the Leader convinced Hulk he was only interested in talking. They later participated in the Leader's assault on the Pantheon's base, the Mount, when the Leader sought the Pantheon's resources. They fought the Hulk and his Pantheon allies until the Leader and the Pantheon's leader, Agamemnon, came to an agreement, much to the Hulk's outrage. They also helped defend the Leader's base from an attack by Hydra, during which the Hulk arrived. Soul Man died during the battle, and the Leader was believed dead as well. After the Leader's apparent demise, the Riot Squad stayed at Freehold, with Omnibus as their leader. Omnibus — apparently possessed by the Leader — attempted to start World War III by committing a series of terrorist attacks across the world, pitting the world's governments against each other. When the rest of the Riot Squad learned of Omnibus' evil actions, they put him on trial, found him guilty and expelled him into the Arctic tundra. Freehold was subsequently invaded by the Troyjans, against whom the Riot Squad fared poorly.



OMNIBUS

Madman (Phil Sterns) is the brother of Sam Sterns (the Leader) and a graduate school classmate of Bruce Banner. Losing out to Banner for military funding for his gamma radiation weapon research, Sterns spent years attempting to duplicate Banner's Hulk-powers, twisting his body and mind; the super-strong, size-altering Madman body/persona came to dominate Phil. Eventually encountering Banner, Phil tried to help him, but Madman made him inject Banner with a poison fatal within 24 hours. In the final moments, however, Phil's persona tried to control Madman, slowing him long enough for the Hulk to inject Madman with his own poison and then himself with the cure Madman sought. Surviving, Madman assisted the Red Skull's short-lived New World Order, and then joined its android Piecemeal in battling the Hulk in the UK. Madman slew former Pantheon member Perseus and apparently escaped when London Bridge collapsed during a subsequent battle.



Eugene Wildeman used gamma radiation to mutate a number of teens he had captured. When Prime of Earth-93060 ("Ultron") arrived on Earth-616, he encountered and unwittingly slew one of Wildeman's giant mutants. Intrigued, Wildeman sought to experiment on Prime, leading to a confrontation with both Prime and the Hulk. Having previously mutated himself as well, Wildeman transformed into giant form and fought them, but was no match for the two powerhouses and reverted to normal after exhausting his power.



Patchwork (Kyle Barker) was a student exposed to Empire State University's gamma accelerator. Transforming regularly into a hideous monster that could sap energy from other gamma mutants, he began slaying women and assembling parts of their bodies into composite forms, seeking the perfect woman. He easily overpowered Doc Samson, She-Hulk and Geiger. Knowing what he was doing was wrong, Patchwork tried to avoid discovery and eventually sought to kill himself via gamma overdose but was saved by Samson, who later testified that Patchwork's gamma-mutate form acted on subconscious/repressed desires that Barker may not have pursued on his own.



Geiger (Delilah "Dee Dee" Dearborn) was a physics student at Empire State University mutated by the same gamma accelerator accident. Taking on the appearance, powers and personality of other

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: HOTSHOT & JAILBAIT, ROCK, SOUL MAN, OGRESS & REDEEMER



gamma mutates, she also found she could scan such mutates, learning everything about them. Inadvertently morphing to mimic the psychopathic Patchwork, she was fought by Doc Samson until he learned the truth and trained her to focus on his form to escape Patchwork's influence. She subsequently aided Samson in locating Patchwork.



THUNDERHEAD



HEADMISTRESS



DEADHEAD



HEADGEAR



LARGO

The **Headshop** members had each accepted the Leader's offers to cure them of their gamma radiation exposure, but his cure involved decapitation and grafting their heads onto android bodies to use for his own purposes. Six escaped, each possessing superhuman abilities and able to detach and reattach their heads at will. Deadhead (Rick Shea) could emit lasers and sonics from his hands; Frost (Everett Donnelly) could generate extreme cold and was immensely strong; Headgear (Dwayne Hess) was technologically skilled and could tap into computers with his armor; superhumanly strong Headmistress (Eileen Snakard) used a chain and hook as weapons; James Largo had Hulk-level strength; large, powerful Thunderhead (Greg Herndon) could fire energy blasts from his chest. The group resolved to gain revenge on the Leader, though after briefly serving as their ship's pilot, Frost quit. At a time when the Hulk transformed into a savage Bruce Banner whenever he got angry, he and Betty Ross Banner settled in Sunville, Florida, where Largo was police chief, to hide from the authorities. After the Army captured the Hulk, the Headshop, unaware that the Leader was thought dead, planned to rescue the Hulk from his high-tech prison so he could aid them in gaining revenge; however, during the course of the rescue mission, Bruce Banner was caught in a grenade blast that lodged shrapnel in his brain. Banner soon transformed back into the Hulk, but the shrapnel left him mentally deranged. When the Headshop insisted that the Hulk aid them against the Leader, Hulk explained the Leader was dead and left them behind, leaping through the top of their ship.



After leaving the Headshop, **Frost** was employed in Las Vegas by Sam Striker as his main enforcer. After Striker had Frost murder the Hulk/Mr. Fixit's former employer Michael Berengetti, the Hulk and his Pantheon allies arrived to bring those responsible to justice. The vigilante Punisher also intervened, trying to take down Striker and Frost. The heroes set up a fake drug buy to lure out Striker and Frost, then goaded them into bragging about murdering Berengetti, and the Las Vegas Police Department moved in to arrest Striker. Frost and the Hulk fought fiercely, but when the Hulk gained the upper hand, Frost detached his own head and unleashed a blinding explosion. When the dust cleared, all that was left was a pile of ice.



Amazon and **Behemoth** are clones of the She-Hulk and the Hulk, respectively. The Master of the World (Eshu) created them as part of his Strike Force One, clones of the Heroes for Hire, each programmed with the Master's memories. They faced the Heroes on the Master's base, the restored former Hydra Island, where they were defeated. The real She-Hulk punched straight through Behemoth's abdomen, but whether he regenerated is uncertain.

General Dwight Rigby was briefly transformed into a large-handed Hulk variant and battled the Hulk.

The **Bannermen** were created to be United Nations superhuman peacekeepers. Using state-of-the-art cloning techniques, their bodies were accelerated to maturity, laced with Adamantium, exposed to gamma radiation, and their brains programmed with UN directives and three basic personality interaction modes. Each one costs \$6 billion to deploy. They were dispatched against the extradimensional Kree "Marvel Boy" Noh-Varr. Two of them fell prey to Noh-Varr's Pocket Battlefield, which distorted their powers. The third activated his gamma enhancements but quickly turned them off to avoid harming civilians when Noh-Varr controlled the civilians into attacking the Bannerman. The Bannerman was crushed.



Lucy Ryker is the wife of General John Ryker. After developing cancer, Lucy was experimented on by Ryker to find a cure. At least one of these tests involved exposure to gamma radiation, which mutated her hideously. Lucy was then placed into a containment unit while General Ryker continued his search for a cure, not only to the cancer, but now the gamma mutations. After being discovered and freed by General Ross and Doc Samson, Lucy was mortified that her husband had mutated and tormented Flux and was torturing the Hulk, having never wanted him to find a cure in this way. General Ryker fled.



Flux (Benjamin "Bennie" Tibbetts), a young Army private, was the only survivor in his group while serving in Iraq. Traumatized, he was recruited by General Ryker and didn't question when his superior had scientists experiment on him with gamma radiation. This caused him to sometimes transform into a super-strong and durable monster, with a constantly changing body; however, Flux could not control this ability, and lost control around women, a result of some psychological maternal issues. Ryker duped Flux into believing that the Hulk was an Iraqi agent and had caused his monstrous transformation. Flux attacked the Hulk in Florida, but was easily overpowered. Bruce convinced Flux that Ryker had lied to him about everything and had used him as a weapon for his own personal agenda. Recaptured by Ryker, Flux was mentally and physically abused, eventually reverting to a child-like mind-state, believing Ryker was his mother and obeying his every command. Flux fought Doc Samson, and then the Hulk; but when Ryker was distracted and stopped giving orders, Flux lost his will to fight, reverted to human form, and fell unconscious. He was subsequently slain by Ryker's later agents, the Gamma Corps.



General John Ryker had a pack of attack dogs subjected to gamma radiation to give them sufficient power to challenge the Hulk. These "**dogs of war**" faced the savage Hulk but failed to bring him down.

Kalkhimithia is a small Greek city known for its olives and tomatoes. The villainous alchemist Diablo unleashed into the atmosphere a chemical from the gamma-irradiated soil of Middletown, which spread over the small Greek city, transforming Kalkhimithia's citizens into gamma-irradiated, Hulk-like monsters. As the Avengers attempted to contain the rampaging Kalkhimithians, Yellowjacket (Henry Pym) discovered that all the Kalkhimithians were similar on a cellular level and could be merged. The Avengers forced the Kalkhimithians to combine into one giant creature, but the heroes' subsequent attempt to shrink it with Pym



Particles failed. They then enlisted Bruce Banner who, as the "Professor" Hulk, was aided by the Scarlet Witch's hex in merging with the giant beast, seizing control of the Kalkhimitians' communal mind and forcing the individual Kalkhimitians to return to their normal selves.



The man known only as **Pratt** was an agent of the Leader's mysterious Home Base. Assigned to retrieve a sample of the Hulk's blood, Pratt posed as an FBI agent during a hostage situation, then shot Banner, drugged him after he became the Hulk, obtained a blood sample, and abducted the unconscious Banner. In the subsequent struggle, Pratt was injected with the Hulk blood and began to mutate into a powerful form, but exploded when it proved more than his body could handle. Gifted with regenerative powers from the Leader, Pratt was reborn in a form able to handle his new power, and he pursued Banner in a series of complicated plots before directly pitting his might against Banner's. The Hulk ultimately tore him into dozens of pieces to prevent his re-forming again.



Digger is the union of 13 mob bosses and lieutenants murdered in 1957 by mobster Morris Forelli for having betrayed him. Their bodies were buried in the Nevada Desert, where they remained until a recent gamma bomb merged and reanimated them as a single entity. Digger made his way to New York and began attacking Forelli's men and establishments. Forelli recruited Spider-

Man to protect him, and Spider-Man realized that Digger was constantly using up gamma radiation, which was the only thing holding him together. Spider-Man intercepted Digger as he attempted to kill Forelli's daughter and gain his vengeance on Forelli himself, and fought the gamma creature relentlessly, forcing him to expend all his gamma radiation at a high rate until Digger finally exhausted his energy and disintegrated.



Hoping to make a fortune, the self-proclaimed "brilliant mixologist" who became known as **Spinach** somehow captured the She-Hulk, using her blood to create an ingestible spray that granted powers similar to those of most gamma-irradiated beings, including a level of super-strength and durability. Hoping to publicize his product, Spinach forced the Hulk into

battle via threatening to exsanguinate She-Hulk, but proved to be no match for the Hulk. After Spinach's defeat, General Ross destroyed all evidence of the spray and the battle, ending Spinach's hopes and possibly his life as well.

The **Gamma Corps** — Grey (Brian Talbot), Griffin (Eliot Franklin), Mess (Nicole Martin), Mr. Gideon (Gideon Wilson) and Prodigy (Timmy Wilkerson) — were mutated by General Ryker in hopes of gaining vengeance on the Hulk for having ruined their lives.



The **Rhino** (Aleksei Sytsevich) had his powers doubled via gamma ray exposure early in his career. Banner's former classmate, Walter Langkowski, subjected himself to controlled gamma ray exposure and achieved the powerful form of **Sasquatch**, though it was later revealed that the gamma rays had merely opened a dimensional portal to the Realm of the

Great Beasts through which Tanaraq had emerged and bonded with Langkowski. **X-Force** was a group of government agents mutated by

gamma rays (along with cosmic rays) in an effort to produce changes like those in the Hulk and Fantastic Four. This was directed by M Branch, the same fanatical US government faction that was behind the failed Super-Powers Registration Act of years past. Most X-Force members either died of radiation poisoning or during their efforts to escape government containment. The emotion-altering and hallucination-inducing Bedlam (Private Bermuda Schwartz; formerly Havok), weather-manipulating Tempest (Private William Read; formerly Storm) and the super-strong and durable Wall (Sergeant Lemuel Sullivan; formerly Colossus) are the sole known remaining members. Rogue (Private Victor Barlow) remained loyal to M Branch and agreed to hunt the others down; he can leech calcium from bones. Spider-Man was briefly transformed by Armand & Ricardo Jones' biokinetic energy absorber into the Spider-Hulk. Coral-snake-bite victim Kyle Hatcher received a blood transfusion from Banner, though he has yet to demonstrate any known mutation.

The extraterrestrial **Froma** race, residents of the planet Chize in the Delee system of the Milky Way galaxy, developed into large-bodied (averaging 7'6" tall), green-skinned humanoids via gamma radiation emitted by their sun. They apparently breathe a non-Earth-like



atmosphere, and can levitate psionically. Dominated by corporations and cartels, the Froma sent a scouting party to Earth's moon to evaluate Earth's potential for colonization. Learning of a planned flight to the moon, four agents — Edam, Gouda, Colby and Havarti — were sent to the USA to destroy the rocket to prevent their base's discovery. Iron Man (Tony Stark) discovered and drove off the four Froma. Years later, Edam and Gouda were intergalactic prisoners banished to Earth as part of "Maximum Security," a plot to occupy humanity to prevent its further extension into space. They fought the Punisher (Frank Castle).



COMPOSITE HUMANOID

A number of robots and machines have utilized gamma power. Notable examples include the Leader's **composite Humanoid**, which fired gamma rays through its eyes; the **Gammadroid**, created by the former Nazis of Matrix Eight, which was based on the Hulk's metabolism, designed to match his power, and controlled by the Master of Matrix Eight's will, though the real Hulk easily destroyed it; **War**

Zone, a gamma-bomb-powered android created by Banner's former colleague Hector DeVasquez to exact revenge for his daughter having married Daniel "Zapper" Ridge when he still had a crush on She-Hulk. Christina had even had plastic surgery to look like a flesh-toned She-Hulk. After She-Hulk dismembered War Zone, and Zapper neutralized the bomb, DeVasquez attacked She-Hulk with his **gamma tank**, but she destroyed it and subdued DeVasquez, who was then arrested. David Purvis (aka "Robinson Crusoe") developed a gamma weapon that transformed others into ape men. The Magus (Adam Warlock's evil side) had his Reed Richards doppelganger detonate a gamma bomb in Four Freedoms Plaza, but it was neutralized by Thor and others. Other scientists involved in gamma research include Raoul Stoddard, David Purvis, Maxwell Wittenborn, Delilah (Delia Childress), Abigail Mercy Wright, Rudolf Stern, Dimitri Solzyn, Kate Waynesboro, Andrew Pollack and Dr. Katherine Sparr.



WAR ZONE



GAMMADROID

Various clones of the above gamma mutates exist, and certain beings have temporarily usurped some of their gamma-spawned powers, but that is beyond the scope of this entry, as are alternate reality and future counterparts. Beings mutated by unspecified radiation are similarly not covered here.

HISTORY: Centuries ago, the alien Horusians abolished the concept of war on their planet. To settle disputes with neighboring worlds, they instead staged gladiatorial games in which each side would select a champion to fight for their cause. Whichever side had the winning champion would be declared the victor. At some point before the 3rd Century BC, the Horusians visited Earth to plant the seeds to create two potential gladiators for their games. At the time, the Ennead pantheon was worshiped in the lands surrounding modern-day Egypt, and so the group of Horusians that arrived took on the appearance of some of those gods. After starting the device that would create their two champions from "seeds" of energy, they departed Earth.

In recent years, the gamma-powered Hulk arrived in the Sahara Desert, intent on getting away from humanity. There, however, he encountered a film crew making a movie. The Hulk was convinced to take part in the shoot, and later that night, in his human form of Dr. Bruce Banner, he wandered the film sets. Banner was abducted by four Horusians who had returned to Earth to prepare for the next game. Taking the human to their spacecraft, they scanned his mind for information about Earth. As they readied themselves for the new contest, one of their members, Qebhsenuf, donned a cerebro-destruct-mechanism with which to monitor the game. Taking advantage of the situation, Banner blasted the alien with a sleep-inducing somna-ray gun. Banner realized the game had the potential to cause widespread havoc, and donned the cerebro-destruct-mechanism to try to stop it. Just as he did, the first champion, a sentient stone giant called Colossus, emerged from the ground. Moments later, Banner witnessed the Great Sphinx of Giza (in which the second Horusian "seed" had embedded itself) come to life. Banner then used the mechanism to nullify the life force within the Sphinx and it returned to its lifeless form. The Horusians confronted Banner, who transformed into the Hulk and started tearing the ship apart before the aliens teleported him back to Earth. The contest ruined, the Horusians departed Earth to locate other long-ago-planted "seeds" to use in order to settle the contest. In their absence, Colossus grew confused as he awaited their commands to meet his opponent. When the Hulk materialized, Colossus assumed he was the opponent and attacked him, but the Hulk tore the stone monster apart. As the individual pieces continued the assault, the Hulk threw them into the ground and buried them, ending Colossus' rampage. The Horusians have not returned to Earth since.

NOTE: The sentient "seed" the Horusians left behind that embedded itself into the Great Sphinx of Giza may also be responsible for the statue's brief rampage decades before they returned to Earth. At that time, an archaeologist accidentally awoke the statue, which called itself Shagg and claimed to have been a robotic scout left on Earth by aliens to await the day they returned. Shagg caused destruction across the globe, but when it realized that it had been revived by accident, not by its masters, it sent out a wave of cosmo-gamma electromagnetic energy that reversed the carnage it had caused and erased all human memories of its existence. Shagg then returned to its lifeless form of the Sphinx, awaiting the eventual arrival of its masters. The very same Sphinx statue also held the spirit of the Egyptian pharaoh Khafre, who had the Sphinx constructed circa 2500 BC based on the monstrous offspring of Typhon and Echidna. Khafre revived and reanimated the Sphinx sometime after the "Shagg" incident, but young scientist Reed Richards transferred Khafre's spirit into the magical Claw of Bast.



DUAMUTEF, IMSET & NEFERTHAMEN

KNOWN MEMBERS: Duamutef, Imset, Neferthamen, Qebhsenuf
BASE OF OPERATIONS: Horus IV, Horus star system, Milky Way Galaxy
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #145 (1971)

TRAITS: Horusians are mammalian humanoids, slightly larger than an average Terran and with a much longer life span, possibly lasting millennia. They are technologically advanced and capable of interstellar travel. Horusians have expertise in bioengineering, to the point of creating sentient life out of normally inanimate material such as stone. They possess machines capable of teleporting beings across long distances and equipment that can read the memories of sentient life forms. Horusians customarily adopt the appearance of locally revered deities on the planets they visit. When this custom involves gods who are non-human in appearance, they wear lifelike organic masks resembling the deities.

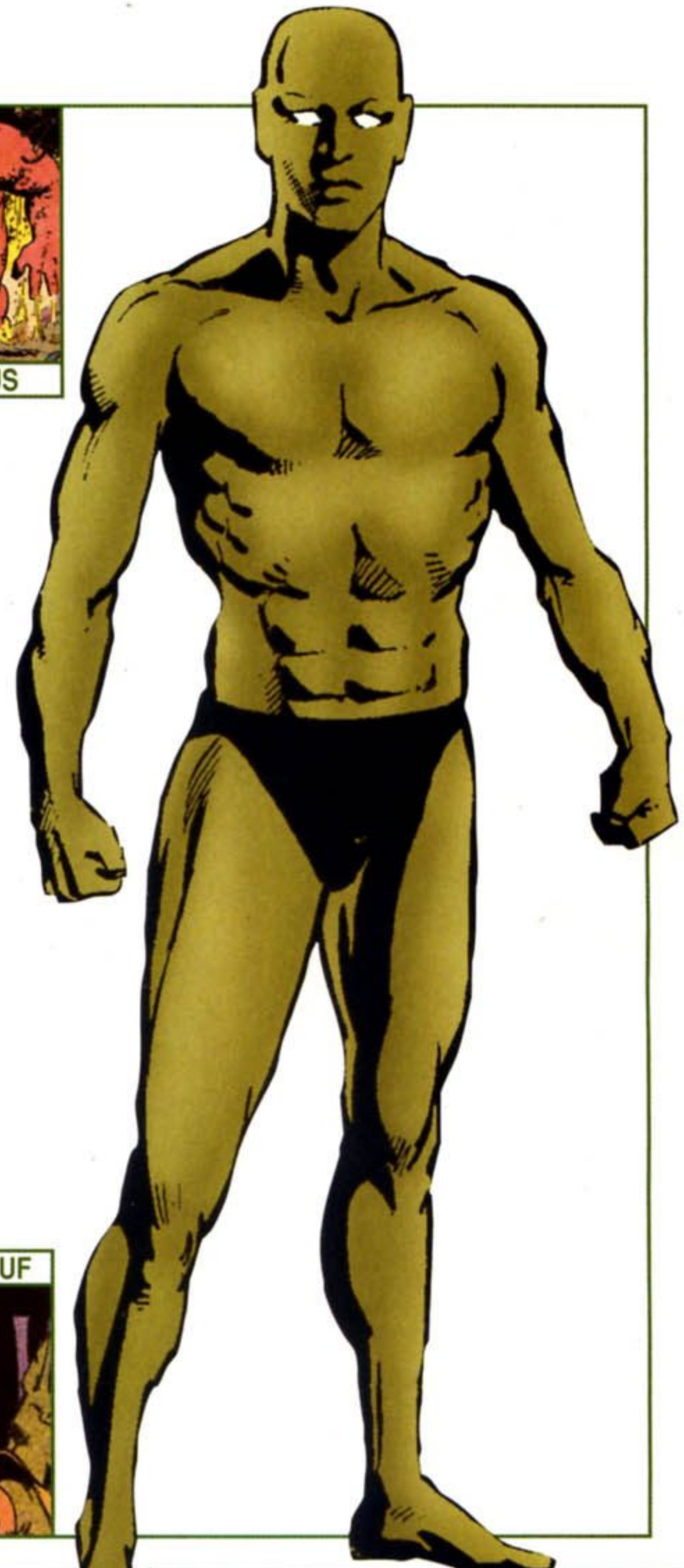
HEIGHT: 7' (average)
WEIGHT: 265 lbs. (average)
EYES: Two (color varies)
SKIN: Brown or yellow



COLOSSUS



QEBEHSENUF



REAL NAME: Robert Bruce Banner

ALIASES: Green King, Green Scar, Holku, Sakaarson, Green One, Eye of Rage, World Breaker, Harkanon, Haarg, Once-Savage, Two-Minds, Captain Universe, Professor, War, Maestro, Joe Fixit, Mr. Fixit, Annihilator, Mechano; Bruce Barnes, Bruce Smith, Glenn Summers, Ross Oppenheimer, Bob Danner, Bruce Ross, Bruce Jones, Bruce Roberts, Mr. Bergen, Bruce Franklin, Bruce Green, Bruce Bancroft, Bruce Baxter, Bruce Davidson, David Bannon, Robert Baker, Bruce Bixby, David Banner, David Bixby, numerous other aliases to disguise identity; "Two-Hands," "Greenskin," "Mr. Green," "Jade Jaws," "Green Goliath," "Jade Giant," "Gray Goliath," "Mighty Bob," "Anti-Hulk," "Friday," "Green Golem," "Golem"

IDENTITY: Publicly known; it is not publicly known that Joe Fixit was the Hulk

OCCUPATION: Warrior; former ruler of Sakaar, rebel leader, gladiator/slave, adventurer, nuclear physicist, mechanic, leader of the Pantheon, enforcer, research scientist, stable hand, banker, ship's crewman, farmhand, steelworker, assistant at special needs children's school, waiter, dishwasher, carnival worker, ore miner, construction worker, janitor, coal miner

CITIZENSHIP: USA, wanted for crimes (several past pardons); Sakaar

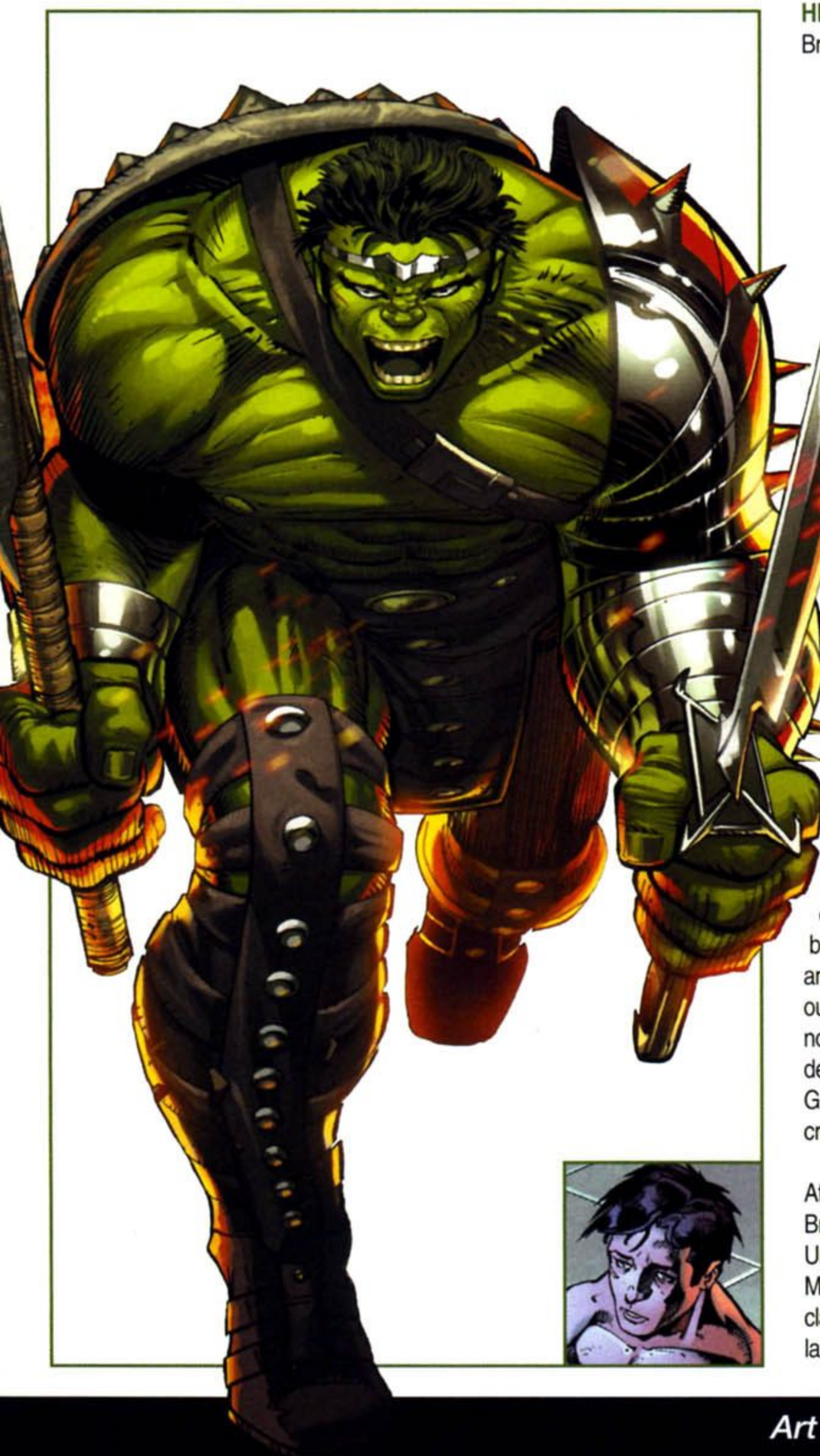
PLACE OF BIRTH: Dayton, Ohio

KNOWN RELATIVES: Caiera (wife, deceased), Elizabeth "Betty" Ross Talbot Banner (wife), Brian and Rebecca Banner (parents, deceased), Bruce (paternal grandfather, presumed deceased), unidentified paternal grandmother (presumed deceased), Susan (maternal grandmother, presumed deceased), William Morris Walters (uncle), Elaine Banner Walters (aunt, deceased), Susan Elizabeth Banner (formerly Susan Drake; paternal aunt, possibly deceased), Jennifer Walters (She-Hulk, cousin), Thaddeus E. "Thunderbolt" Ross (father-in-law)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Warbound; formerly Defenders, Order, Apocalypse's Horsemen, Secret Defenders, alternate Fantastic Four (Ghost Rider/Dan Ketch, Spider-Man/Peter Parker, Wolverine/James Howlett), Pantheon, Titans Three, Avengers, Hulkbusters of Franklin Richards' Counter-Earth (as the Hulk); formerly the Hulkbusters (as Banner)

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in nuclear physics and two other fields

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #1 (1962)



HISTORY: Robert Bruce Banner was the son of atomic physicist Dr. Brian Banner and his wife, Rebecca. Although Rebecca deeply loved Bruce, who returned her affection, Brian hated the child. An alcoholic, Brian Banner had himself been abused by his alcoholic father. He was insanely jealous of Rebecca's love for Bruce. In addition, Brian had become convinced that his work in Los Alamos to produce clean nuclear power had altered his own genes, resulting in what he saw as a mutant offspring. Bruce's early demonstrations of phenomenal intelligence only served to reinforce this belief, and Brian became increasingly abusive to Bruce, as well as to Rebecca when she defended Bruce. When Rebecca finally tried to take Bruce and flee, Brian murdered her. Having witnessed this, Bruce was intimidated by Brian into keeping silent during the ensuing trial. Brian, however, was overheard bragging how he had browbeaten Bruce into lying, and he was arrested and sent to Bellmore Psychiatric Institute in San Francisco, California.

Already a quiet intellectual youth, Bruce became even more withdrawn, internalizing his great pain and rage over his childhood sufferings. He was initially raised in Charlestown, Ohio by his aunt Susan Drake. Among his few childhood joys were the summers spent with his younger cousin, Jen Walters. By the time Bruce and his aunt (who retook her maiden name, Banner) moved to Modesto, California, Bruce had developed a separate personality to express his hidden feelings, regarding it as his imaginary friend, Hulk (or at least remembering it as so in retrospect years later). While in high school, Bruce received a severe beating after coming between an aggressive boy and his girlfriend. Enraged, the Hulk persona took control of Bruce during his sleep and he planted a bomb in the school boiler room. Realizing what had happened, Bruce rushed to the school and deactivated the timer, but was discovered, beaten again and kicked out of school. Though the bomb had been defective, Bruce's efforts were noticed by the US military, who hoped that he might become a weapons designer for them in the future. Unknown to Banner, they had Air Force General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross pressure the school not to press criminal charges as long as Bruce and Susan left town.

After graduating from Science High School, with the military's support Bruce studied nuclear physics in Navapo, New Mexico, at Desert State University (DSU) as the star student of professors Herbert Josiah Weller, Max Christiansen and his mentor Geoffrey Crawford. He roomed with classmate Peter Corbeau, who would remain a long-term friend, and later with pre-law student Randy Cantor. Bruce was also classmates





with Raoul Stoddard. Despite his introverted nature, Bruce was allegedly three-time dart champion. Following a brief relationship with Sally Moore, Bruce dated classmate Susan Jacobson, who tried to bring the withdrawn Banner out of his shell. When he finally did respond to her, however, his emotions exploded forth and he grabbed and terrified the girl, who broke up with him. Shortly thereafter, he had a brief fling with

Susan's wilder friend Nicky. Bruce also studied for a time at Pennsylvania State University, where he met Walter Langkowski (later Sasquatch).

Bruce initially attended medical school but quit to return to his true calling. He obtained his doctorate in nuclear physics at the California Institute of Technology, alongside Phillip Sterns (later Madman) and Rikky Keegan. After a number of failed relationships, Bruce finally found happiness at CIT with medical student Angela Lipscombe; however, when Angela won a research grant and Bruce's proposals were turned down by multiple organizations, he became jealous and left her. Bruce corresponded with Charles Xavier on the gamma ray treatment of mental exhaustion and wrote a paper on particle physics, and was colleagues with Ronald Jenkins, Dimitri Solzyn and Hector DeVasquez. Unable to get work from anyone else, Banner was ultimately forced to turn to the military. Around this time Brian Banner was released from the mental hospital, and he confronted Bruce, tormenting him with the knowledge of his actions and threatening to kill him. Bruce fought back in self-defense, striking his father, who fell backwards, struck a tombstone and was killed. Bruce repressed his memory of this incident for many years to come.

Bruce went to work for the United States Defense Department nuclear research facility at Desert Base, New Mexico under the secret oversight of General John Ryker. There Banner finally met General "Thunderbolt" Ross, now the officer in command of the base, and his daughter, Betty. Banner and Betty eventually fell in love with each other, and Bruce also befriended cropduster Hank Stazinski, becoming godfather to his daughter, Polly. Banner designed and oversaw construction of the "gamma bomb" or "G-bomb," a nuclear weapon with a high gamma radiation output. During the gamma bomb's first test detonation, Bruce observed from the instrumentation bunker that a civilian had breached security and entered the restricted test area. Banner told his colleague, Igor Starsky, to delay the countdown while he got the civilian to safety; however, Starsky was secretly Russian agent Igor Drenkov, and he allowed the countdown to continue, certain Banner would die in the explosion, ending the project. Reaching the civilian, Rick Jones, Banner threw him into a protective trench; but before Bruce could get himself to safety, the gamma bomb detonated and Banner was irradiated with highly charged radioactive particles. Banner was not killed by the radiation, which instead caused him to transform before Jones' eyes that very night, becoming a gray, monstrous and powerful creature that rampaged through the base. One of the soldiers seeing the creature referred to him as a "hulk," which became the name the military adopted for him; ironically this was the same name Banner had used for his persona representing his inner rage and anger, and the creature adopted this name for itself.

After the Hulk and Rick encountered, exposed and defeated Igor as he tried to steal Banner's notes, the Hulk was drawn to Betty, which led to more Army conflicts. He returned to Banner's form and mind at daybreak, but continued to transform back and forth. Realizing the Hulk's threat, Banner established a hidden desert laboratory in a cave near Desert Base. It included a small rock chamber in which Rick could seal Banner each night to contain the Hulk, and was the first of several such desert bases Banner established in the surrounding desert. Enraged by the

Hulk's interest in Betty, Ross aggressively pursued the Hulk, once even aided by the new hero Iron Man (Tony Stark), to no avail. Meanwhile, though imprisoned, Igor transmitted a message to his superiors who informed the mutated genius Gargoyle (Yuri Topolov) of the Hulk's existence. Initially intending to prove his superiority, Gargoyle captured the Hulk and Rick Jones via will-sapping pellets and brought them to his Russian base; upon seeing the Hulk's transformation into Banner, Gargoyle — himself a radiation mutate — worked with Banner to achieve a cure for his own condition. Grateful, Topolov set Banner and Jones free and blew up his own base, sacrificing himself to strike back against the government that had mutated and exploited him, dying as a man.

The first of the many variations of Banner's transformations manifested as the Hulk became green, the color he would generally keep and the hue most often seen in other gamma mutates. At first Banner kept his affliction secret from everyone except Rick Jones, who was grateful to Banner for saving his life and has remained his friend and confidant ever since. Though Banner and Hulk soon defeated the invading alien Tribbitites ("Toad Men"), Banner's unexplained presence aboard their ship led to early suspicions of Banner being a traitor; these were further inflamed by Banner's frequent unexplained absences. The military regarded the Hulk as a menace and constantly hunted him, often on the orders of General Ross. For instance, the General's "Plan H" launched the Hulk into space aboard a missile, but Rick returned the missile to Earth. Space radiation transmitted back through its controls on Earth somehow enabled Rick to control Hulk via verbal commands for some time thereafter; in addition, the Hulk stopped turning back into Banner, and he would rampage while Rick slept. After Rick helped Hulk stop the Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime, he daringly used Banner's desert lab gamma ray projector to turn Hulk back into Banner, who then fine-tuned the projector, allowing him to turn into the Hulk at will while retaining his intelligence; however, Hulk remained easily provoked and violent, and Banner was left weakened after his transformations. The Hulk confronted the seemingly alien conqueror Mongu, revealed to be Russian agent Boris Monguski, whose Russian soldiers tried to capture the Hulk so their scientists could make an army with his strength. The Hulk drove off the Russians but was nonetheless suspected of being involved in Mongu's hoax. As the Hulk's rampages continued, groups such as Green Cross were established to provide victims disaster relief.

General Ross unwittingly assigned Banner to stop the Hulk, whose defeats of subterranean warlord Tyrannus and Asian invader General Fang went largely unrecognized. Continued gamma exposure affected Banner, rendering his normal form briefly super-strong and once leaving Banner's normal head atop the Hulk's body, forcing him to wear a Hulk mask; the transformations eventually stabilized with Banner becoming the Hulk in times of stress, though gamma ray exposure often caused the change. Framed for destruction of U.S. technology, Hulk battled the Fantastic Four before the Wrecker (Karl Kort) was exposed as the true culprit. The Hulk redeemed himself in the government's eyes by defeating the alien Metal Master, earning a presidential pardon. Soon after, however, he was duped by the Asgardian god Loki into destroying a train trestle; though he saved the oncoming train, he was nonetheless blamed. Hearing of this, Rick Jones attempted to contact the Fantastic Four to locate Hulk, but Loki redirected the message to reach Loki's hated brother, Thor. Iron Man, Ant-Man (Hank Pym) and the Wasp (Janet Van Dyne) also received the message, joining forces to track the fugitive Hulk, who was posing as a robot named Mechano in the Kiebler Circus (apparently unaware that several Circus of Crime members were also hiding out there). Locating Hulk via Ant-Man's ants, the four heroes briefly fought the Hulk until





Loki's duplicity was exposed. Following Loki's defeat, the Hulk helped the other heroes found the Avengers; however, his new teammates distrusted him due to his dangerous temper. The other-dimensional shape-shifting Space Phantom exploited this distrust by impersonating the Hulk and

turning the others against him. The deception was exposed, but the Hulk, feeling he was hated by the other Avengers, quit the group.

As the Hulk's savage personality became more ascendant, he became a public menace once again, continually hunted by the military; the implacable General Ross would even form a specialized military team of "Hulkbusters" devoted to targeting the monster. Namor the Sub-Mariner briefly teamed with Hulk against the Avengers, but their alliance — uneasy due to Namor's arrogance and the Hulk's volatility — was short-lived; the Hulk turned back into Banner in mid-fight and fled. The Hulk found a recurring foe in the Leader, a gamma-enhanced intellect who repeatedly sought to defeat or exploit the Hulk. One of the Hulk's few true friends at this time was the Sentry (Robert Reynolds), whose solar energy soothed the otherwise savage beast. For a time the Hulk stayed at the Sentry's Watchtower, teaming with him against the General, Danny Boy, the Leader, Living Nuke and the Lobster People. Eventually, however, the Sentry's dark side, the Void, returned and assaulted the Hulk, psychically tormenting him and sending him on a rampage; the Hulk soon returned to his wanderings, more alone than ever. The Hulk's somewhat random travels have spanned the globe, including many nations across each continent. He has also visited numerous planets, various dimensions and past and future eras.

For a surprisingly long time, Banner concealed his double identity from virtually everyone but Rick Jones; however, during a time when the Hulk was missing and presumed dead, Jones told General Ross's aide, Major Glenn Talbot, that Banner was the Hulk, and Banner's secret inevitably became public knowledge. Aided by the Fantastic Four's Reed Richards, Banner again placed his mind in control of the Hulk. Believing his problems over, Banner proposed to Betty, who accepted; but the Leader, seeking vengeance on the Hulk, sent the Rhino to disrupt the wedding and used a gamma weapon to restore the savage Hulk. When General Ross was injured in the subsequent battle, the Hulk's nature caused a long-term rift between Bruce and Betty. Soon after, Kang the Conqueror captured the Hulk and sent him back in time to 1917 to rid himself of Banner by arranging the death of Banner's grandfather (or possibly great-grandfather) — a French World War I soldier — to prevent Banner's birth, but the Hulk instead fought attacking German soldiers, foiling Kang's plot. Banner later returned to DSU where Raoul Stoddard used his Gammatron to cure Banner, separating Banner and Hulk into two beings. The Gammatron was subsequently used to remerge them in the erroneous belief that the Hulk might stay submerged within Banner.

Rick had previously left the Hulk, who, not surprisingly, had few other long-term friends. Young Jim Wilson became a close friend, staying by Hulk's side for several lengthy periods. Mogol, agent of Tyrannus also befriended the Hulk, who angrily smashed Mogol to pieces upon learning he was a robot. Hulk formed another brief friendship with the homeless "Crackajack" Jackson, who taught him to read, but Jackson was killed by the criminals Hammer and Anvil. Rick Jones would return to the Hulk's side for long periods in the future. The Hulk also found friends and allies as a member of the Defenders, an informal super-hero group where his long-term teammates included Dr. Strange, Namor, Silver Surfer, Valkyrie, Nighthawk, Hellcat and others; however, the general public was mostly unaware of the Defenders' existence and activities during Hulk's

membership, so he was still widely regarded as a menace. Others who befriended the Hulk during his journeys included Morvania's Rachel Dresden and her family, who believed the Hulk to be the legendary Golem; the benevolent New Men of the High Evolutionary's Counter-Earth; the Brickford family of Lucifer Falls, West Virginia; Siberia's Katrina Palkov; Angus & Sarah MacTavish of Scotland's Loch Fear; Bob & Carol Hickman, son-in-law and daughter of the Locust (August Hopper); an orphaned deer "Bambi" that was later possessed by Chondu the Mystic; orphan Ricky Anderson with whom he attended Florida's Wonderland amusement park; Joe Timms (the Glob); the cavewoman Tanna; the uncivilized Rock People; the "Circus of Lost Souls," "Robinson Crusoe" (aka David Purvis); Todd Gregory, whom the Hulk helped save from paternal abuse; Canadian "witch doctor" Passing Cloud; Fred Sloan and Trish Starr; Cherokee Chief John; alien exile Zgorian; and the poisoned world's symbiont "Sym."

Similarly, Banner has made numerous friends and acquaintances, such as Abby Davis, a Crystal Falls, Colorado waitress; Jungfrau, Switzerland's Katrina Euler, whom he referred to colleagues for treatment of an illness; British Columbia's Maureen Friesen; Africa's Paradise Island's Thaddeus Hatcher; Manhattan hippy Clear Marks; the mentally challenged Earl Slocum; Suzette Classon; Las Vegas singer Jimmy Martin; Faulkner, Missouri's sheriff Jonas Tolliver and his daughter Emma; St. Louis, Missouri's Jerome Able; Manhattan's Pam Grayson; and London sorceress Patricia Freeman. Some of the above proved friends to both Banner and the Hulk. Banner has also enjoyed a number of short-lived romances, such as Daily Bugle reporter Dawn Michaels, Manhattan businesswoman Alice Steinfeld and the Nightmerican Chrissie Cutler. Unfortunately, the savage Hulk's limited intellect has also rendered him the pawn of numerous evildoers who earned his alliance via promises of friendship or vengeance against those who had harmed him. Though the Fantastic Four's freakish strongman Thing has sympathized with the Hulk's plight, the two have just as often met as foes, and one effort to cure the Hulk instead resulted in a temporary switching of their minds. The feral mutant Wolverine has shared a similar ally/enemy role with the Hulk.

For years Betty Ross continued to love Banner, despite her knowledge of his double identity; however, Banner's feelings were divided after the Hulk fell in love with Jarella, queen of K'ai in an unidentified extradimensional "micro-world" whose green-skinned natives welcomed the Hulk. K'ai's Sorcerers Triad allowed Banner's brain to control the Hulk and he nearly became king, but he was always pulled back to Earth before long. Betty eventually married Glenn Talbot and Jarella was accidentally killed while living on Earth, but Betty still harbored a secret love for Banner. Banner continued efforts to cure himself aided by experts such as his former mentor Geoffrey Crawford, but never achieved any lasting success. While Banner was visiting his cousin Jennifer Walters in Los Angeles, she was shot by an agent of gangster Nicholas Trask. To save his cousin's life Banner improvised an emergency blood transfusion. The transfusion of Banner's blood mutated Walters, causing her to become the She-Hulk. Betty eventually divorced Glenn Talbot, General Ross went mad and Gamma Base was shut down. During this same time, the Hulk briefly became a pawn of the mystic realm Tunnelworld's dread sorcerer the Unnameable — who drew power from and controlled all those who knew its true name — but Dr. Strange ultimately duped the Unnameable into drawing all of its power into the Hulk and then trapping it within a sealed section of the Hulk's brain. Banner subsequently



befriended Manhattan's Ruby Barclay who took him to the mystic Baba Shanti, who turned out to be Bruce's old roommate Randy Cantor seeking to guide others in the path of enlightenment he had attained to some degree. Glenn Talbot was ultimately slain in a desperate effort to destroy the Hulk.

Sometime later, repeated gamma radiation exposure during several adventures caused Bruce to retain Banner's mind in Hulk form and gave him control of his transformations. When this information became public knowledge, the US president pardoned the now heroic Hulk. Bruce briefly enjoyed the companionship of the alien Bereet, who had filmed his adventures as the Hulk from her home planet. Banner then returned to his career as a scientist, working out of Northwind Observatory, constructing the artificial assistant and companion Recordasphere and initiating a romantic relationship with his assistant, Kate Waynesboro. While Kate proved to be a SHIELD agent sent to monitor Banner to ensure he remained in control, she did end up falling in love with him. "Sphere" was destroyed by the Abomination, and Banner was very upset to learn Kate's secret. Banner's anxiety was exacerbated by the demon Nightmare, who sought to provoke him into becoming the savage Hulk once again to increase humanity's fear (and nightmares) of him. Despite his best efforts, Banner began to lose control over the Hulk. Former mobster Max "Hammer" Stryker kidnapped Kate, coercing Banner to use his gamma device to cure Stryker's cancer. The Hulk was transported to Battleworld by the Beyonder to participate in the "Secret Wars" struggle. Upon returning, he saw Stryker mutate into a Hulk-like creature. When the enraged Stryker attacked him, the only way Banner could fight the creature's brutal attack was to allow the savage Hulk personality to gain ascendance. Broken by having and then losing control, Banner retreated further into himself, allowing the Hulk to become more and more mindless and violent. Ultimately, Banner requested that the sorcerer Dr. Strange transform him into the Hulk in his mind to free himself from his tormented existence.

Art by Sal Buscema



The now virtually mindless Hulk was too dangerous to be allowed to rampage across the Earth, and Dr. Strange did not want to kill his old friend. He found the solution in the Crossroads, a dimension that was a portal to countless other dimensions. The Hulk could go anywhere he wanted, and would be returned to the Crossroads as soon as he became dissatisfied with his location. During this time the Hulk found that there were many beings whose power dwarfed even his own. In the Crossroads the Hulk made a friend in the

Puffball Collective, another entity that had been banished there; however, the Puffball was revealed to be an agent of the N'Garai demons, and had only befriended the Hulk to escape the Crossroads. Shortly after revealing itself, the Puffball was slaughtered by the N'Garai, and the Hulk returned to the Crossroads. The Collective's attention to the Hulk had begun to reawaken Banner's mind, which first manifested itself as the Triad: Goblin (his id and emotions), Guardian (his ego and sense of self-preservation) and Glow (his superego and intellect). The Triad began to guide the mindless Hulk into rediscovering himself, and on one world a wounded Hulk transformed back into Banner.

The Hulk was unwittingly returned to Earth by the Canadian super-team Alpha Flight. Seeking a monstrous form to house the disembodied intellect of Walter Langkowski (formerly Sasquatch), they unwittingly snared the Hulk with an energy harpoon. The Hulk regressed back into

a violent mindless state upon returning to Earth, rampaging across the continent. Doc Samson eventually captured the Hulk and succeeded in separating Banner's psyche and atomic structure from that of the Hulk, making them separate beings. The mindless Hulk escaped and, no longer restrained by Banner's subconscious identity, became a greater menace than ever before. Banner organized a new group of Hulkbusters to capture the Hulk, for whom he still felt responsible. Nonetheless, thinking himself free from his half-existence as the Hulk, Banner at last married Betty Ross. But Banner's health sharply declined because of his having been so divided. As a result, the android Vision facilitated the reintegration of Banner and the Hulk into a single physical being. General Ross, then descending into madness, interfered with Doc Samson's subsequent attempt to cure the Hulk, causing him to revert back to his original gray state and personality — less strong and more intelligent than the traditional Hulk, but ruthless and cruel. In the process, Rick was exposed to the Hulk's energies and began turning into his own version of the savage Hulk for a brief time before being cured.

Banner initially kept the return of his Hulk transformations a secret, but his condition inevitably became public knowledge again. The gray Hulk worked alongside Rick Jones and SHIELD agent Clay Quartermain during the search for a missing gamma bomb. The quest culminated with the Leader detonating the bomb in the city of Middletown, Arizona with the Hulk at the center of the explosion. Seemingly dead, the Hulk was actually saved by wizards of Jarella's world, who brought him to their planet to overthrow the mad Grand Inquisitor. The Hulk enjoyed the resultant worship he received and decided to stay there, but the wizards sent him home so they could rule instead. Upon returning to Earth, the still gray Hulk took the identity of Joe Fixit and became an enforcer for Las Vegas casino Coliseum owner Michael Berengetti. Fixit kept his Hulk identity secret, pretending instead to have a bizarre skin condition that was sensitive to sunlight. A spell from the alien sorcerers allowed Fixit to remain in Hulk form for months without reverting, but eventually the spell wore off. Fixit briefly dated the statuesque Marlo Chandler, but eventually it became clear that he was the Hulk; Berengetti terminated his employment due to the heat the Hulk was continually bringing to his business.

The Hulk's transformation began to destabilize, and he would intermittently become Fixit and the green savage Hulk. Eventually Doc Samson partially diagnosed Banner's identity disorder and, by working with the Ringmaster's hypnosis, merged Banner's mind with that of Fixit and the savage Hulk, creating a new form, which possessed the greatest aspects of each of the splinter personalities, later nicknamed the Professor. Now mentally stable in his Hulk form, Banner was soon recruited to join covert disaster-prevention group the Pantheon, which he came to lead for a length of time. During this period he was

pulled forward in time to encounter his dark future self, the Maestro; the knowledge of his potential future greatly troubled the Hulk, as did one particular encounter in which one of the Maestro's "Betties" had sex with the Hulk while he was paralyzed with a broken neck. The Pantheon also helped the Hulk free his old girlfriend Susan Jacobson, who had been imprisoned as a spy. Later, when an internal war developed in the Pantheon, the Hulk became so angry that he triggered a subconscious



Art by Jeff Purves



Art by Dale Keown

fail-safe he had created for himself. Fearful of his mindless form's destructive capacity, he transformed back into Banner upon becoming too angry. In addition, while in Banner's form, he possessed the mind of the savage Hulk. This created an Achilles' heel for Banner in that one of his greatest assets, his anger, became his greatest weakness.

Art by Mike Deodato Jr.



Art by Ed Benes



The Hulk left the Pantheon, working briefly as a mechanic under his old instructor, Max Christiansen. Later, Banner received a piece of shrapnel in his brain, and only transformation into the Hulk saved his life. The shrapnel caused the Hulk to become darker and more violent, seemingly beginning the

degeneration that would lead to his becoming the Maestro. When the Hulk opposed the malevolent psychic entity Onslaught, a portion of Banner was sent to the alternate world created by Franklin Richards that eventually became known as Counter-Earth; that fragment was reborn as a fledgling Hulk with his past memories suppressed. Maintaining a connection with his Counter-Earth fragment, the Hulk initially mutated and shed massive amounts of radiation before stabilizing. Sensing that he was lacking something, the Hulk sought to gain "more," though he did not know what he truly wanted. For a time he was joined by Janis Jones (time-displaced possible future great-granddaughter of Rick Jones and Marlo Chandler), and his interdimensional connections served as a nexus attracting otherdimensional beings, such as the Hulk of Reality-9722 who had slain that timeline's Maestro and ruled his Dystopia for a time. Bereft of Banner's mental blocks, the Hulk also began to rediscover his suppressed memories of his father and his death, and he was sometimes plagued by the seeming ghost of his father. During this time the Hulk fell under the influence of the immortal mutant Apocalypse, who used a laser to destroy the shrapnel in the Hulk's brain. The Hulk briefly became Apocalypse's Horseman War, wearing a helmet intended to block out his father; however, when War injured Rick Jones, the Hulk was again plagued by guilt and his father's taunts, and he rejected Apocalypse's programming and regained his own mind.

Eventually the two Hulk fragments were remerged, restoring the status quo of the savage Hulk splitting its existence and time with Banner. The Hulk then faced and again defeated the Maestro, who had eventually absorbed enough gamma radiation from his past self to re-form. Bruce once again established a healthy relationship with his wife Betty, but he suffered a devastating blow when Betty died of radiation poisoning after his old enemy the Abomination injected her with some of his own blood;

Banner initially assumed Betty had died from chronic exposure to his own radioactive body. Shortly thereafter, Banner's influence was usurped by Tyrannus, who sent the Hulk on senselessly destructive rampages that Banner could not recall. Tyrannus also briefly captured Banner and used a Tyrannoid Subterranean mutated into Hulk form to replace him. The Tyrannoid-Hulk went on even more destructive rampages, bringing down a passenger airplane, killing everyone aboard. The Hulk ultimately halted Tyrannus' plot and cleared his name.

Banner then began to suffer from the degenerative neurological disease Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, aka Lou Gehrig's Disease). Banner's condition deteriorated severely, and he worked with his old college girlfriend, neurologist Angela Lipscombe, to develop a cure. During this time, the Hulk, Dr. Strange, Namor and the Surfer fell prey to a spell of their enemy Yandroth that cursed them to be drawn together as the Defenders whenever evil threatened Earth. Following being targeted and briefly captured by the nefarious General John Ryker, the Hulk was ultimately treated by Lipscombe, Reed Richards and Ant-Man (Scott Lang), who repaired Bruce's nervous system via implanting DNA from Brian Banner's corpse. Obliquely indebted to him for his continued life, Bruce at last made his peace with his memories of his father. Soon after, Yandroth's spell — which drew on the Earth goddess Gaea's power — caused the four Defenders to become increasingly self-righteous and violent, eventually establishing themselves as the Order and seeking to conquer Earth. Empowered by their violence, Yandroth nearly gained the power to destroy the world before the Order realized his plan and ceased all hostilities, dissipating his power and essence again.

Bruce was then contacted by the mysterious Mr. Blue — actually Betty Banner, secretly resurrected and surgically altered by a mysterious agency known only as the Team — who trained him to use self-hypnosis to better control his transformations. Soon after, the Leader initiated his most complex plot yet against his old foe. The Hulk was framed for the seeming death of Ricky Myers, and Bruce had to go into hiding. On the run once again, the Hulk was pursued by various agents of the covert organization Home Base, who sought his blood to create an army of super-powered warriors. Some of these agents, such as Pratt, Sandra Verdugo and the mysterious S-3, had been granted extensive regenerative powers. Both Banner and the Hulk were pursued relentlessly in a series of ever more complicated plots, though Banner continued to receive aid from Mr. Blue and Doc Samson. Verdugo was actually Ricky Myer's mother by Samson, and she had been promised to be reunited with her son if she brought the Hulk to Home Base. Realizing that Home Base would slay Ricky as soon as they had the Hulk, she instead turned against her partner, Jink Slater, arranging his death and convincing the Hulk to help rescue Ricky. Pratt successfully obtained a sample of Hulk blood but was injected with it before he could return it to Home Base. Despite being mutated by this exposure, Pratt was ultimately destroyed by the Hulk. Bruce then seemed to happen upon a New Mexico desert supply store and shared a romance with its owner; this turned out to be yet another Home Base plot, as the owner was Nadia Dornova Blonsky, the Abomination's ex-wife, who had joined with Home Base to gain revenge on her abusive former spouse. Nadia, however, developed true feelings for Banner, revealed her plot to him, and confronted the Abomination herself, intending to destroy him with a Home Base-implanted weapon. Home Base double-crossed her with an ineffective weapon, but the Hulk saved her and defeated the Abomination.

Seeking peace in Mistassini, Canada, Banner instead encountered Wolverine and the assassin Shredder before saving coral-snake-bite victim Kyle Hatcher with a transfusion of his own blood. Relocating to Manhattan, Banner befriended advertising agent Pam Grayson, who helped him defeat a psychically powered Absorbing Man. Banner was then guided back to New Mexico by Home Base and arrived to save Nadia and the recently arrived S-3 from the Home Base's Krill — lizard-like androids designed to deliver Hulk blood to Home Base.



Despite her facial reconstruction, the Hulk instantly recognized S-3 as Betty, a former double agent within Home Base as well as the enigmatic Mr. Blue, and they were soon joined by Samson and Verdugo. In a seemingly final confrontation with Home Base, Sandra perished in its self-destruct nuclear explosion, while the Hulk saved the others from a Home Base Banner/

Hulk clone, which he was forced to eviscerate to prevent its regeneration. During that conflict, only Nadia believed that Bruce was himself and not the clone, and Banner left all of them to be alone, though he did leave behind a supply of the Hulk's blood that Betty might use to save herself from the cancer she had obtained during the Team's treatments. Relocating to California, the Hulk was captured by the clairvoyant Even Matthews; Matthews released Banner and tried to trick Banner into killing him to prevent his dying from cancer, though Banner recognized the ruse and refused. Tony Stark drafted Banner into helping him develop a gamma-radiation-proof suit of armor, and both Banner and the Hulk were needed to save Stark from radiation toxicity after Stark elevated the radiation exposure levels in efforts to prove the armor's value.

Exhausted by his recent non-stop adventures, Banner at last fell prey to the Leader, who forced the Hulk into a somnambulant state, drawing him to his base. Left a disembodied head by his recent experiences, the Leader forced the Hulk to set his controls to establish a link between their minds, and the Leader intended to transfer his mind into the Hulk's brain, permanently ousting Banner's mind. Samson, Betty and Nadia came to the rescue, and Samson smashed the Hulk into the Leader's tank, severing his linkage to the Hulk and leaving his head to die in the open air. Nadia, however, perished saving Betty from a piece of flying glass from the shattered tank, taking it through the chest instead. Enraged and confused, the Hulk savagely beat Samson until Betty condemned the Hulk as a destructive monster and caused him to flee.

The Hulk was subsequently enlisted by Strange against the extradimensional sorcerer Dormammu, who turned Hulk to stone. Restored and seduced by Dormammu's sorcerous sister, Umar, the Hulk then joined her, Strange and Namor in stripping Dormammu of power he had usurped from the cosmic Eternity, power Umar claimed herself. Summoned to Nightmare Island, the Hulk was beset by extradimensional Mindless Ones in illusory form via the demon Nightmare, but he ultimately saw through the deceptions, decapitated Nightmare and left his new acquaintance Daydream (Nightmare's half-human daughter) behind. In London, Bruce briefly befriended the sorceress Patricia Freeman, helping her spirit track down her killer, Tom Perkins, before she faded from existence.

When the Scarlet Witch overwrote existence with the "House of M" reality, Banner and the Hulk both found themselves an accepted part of the True People tribe of Aborigines in Australia. The Hulk joined forces with AIM (Advanced Idea Mechanics) — including Monica Rappaccini, Scorpion (Carmilla Black/Thasane Rappaccini), Professor Aaron Isaacs and his robot creation Adam — in toppling the mutant Exodus' dictatorship, which was rounding up humans for slaughter. Now ruling Australia, Banner had a



relationship with Monica, learning she was Nicky from his college days. Even after discovering and neutralizing Monica's cyborg army program (developed from unwilling recruits captured by government agents) and overcoming her efforts to have him killed, Banner kept Monica by his side, refusing to surrender

his new position even under instruction from the mighty Magneto who ruled that reality. Soon after, however, this reality faded from existence and the status quo was restored. The "Old Man" of the True People, whose mysticism had allowed him to see beyond the reality changes, invited "Two-Minds" (his name for Banner and the Hulk) to stay with them, but Banner realized his violent ways would be a constant threat to them. Sometime later, while passing through Jackalope, New Mexico, the Hulk fought off a SHIELD helicopter pursuing Amadeus Cho, earning the young ultra-genius' fierce loyalty.

Enlisted to foil a plot by the terrorist group Hydra, the Hulk was exposed to a gamma bomb explosion, which rendered him delusional and left him in his gray form, but with his full strength. The Hulk rampaged in Las Vegas, battling the Human Torch and Thing at length until the former's nova flame restored his sanity. This rampage, however, had been noticed by the "Illuminati" — a secret elite cabal of super-beings who sought to keep Earth's paranormal affairs under control. Despite the objections and violent departure of Namor, the remaining Illuminati members — Iron Man, Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards), Dr. Strange and the Inhuman monarch Black Bolt — plotted the permanent elimination of Hulk's threat to Earth. As Strange and the others had all been Hulk's friends at some point, they sought not to slay him, but instead to banish him to another world where he might live in peace. Banner had relocated to northwestern Alaska, living a solitary existence as a fisherman, but was tracked by a Nick Fury LMD (Life Model Decoy) and enlisted to destroy the Godseye, an alleged Hydra creation that threatened Earth. Banner agreed and the Hulk went up in space, risking his life and destroying the Godseye, but not before he learned it was actually a SHIELD creation. Planning to take this up with Fury, the Hulk instead fell victim to the "Illuminati" plot and was sent flying off into space with no ability to control his ship as it headed for an uninhabited planet. A parting message from his four former friends explaining their actions played out as he realized his fate.

The "Illuminati" plot went awry when the SHIELD ship carrying the Hulk was pulled into the Great Portal, a wormhole created by the Shadow People of the planet Sakaar that brought beings and objects from around the universe to their world in hopes of helping the planet and its people. Greatly weakened by the passage and subsequent crash, the Hulk was captured and auctioned off to gladiator trainer Primus Vand. Drawing early attention after slaughtering a group of immensely powerful "great devil corks," the Hulk then targeted Sakaar's ruler, the Red King (Angmo II). Intrigued, the battle-armored King confronted the Hulk, delivering several wounds but receiving a sword slash to his face in return. The Hulk was subdued by the King's Death's Head Warguards, implanted with a control disk and sent to the training camp known as the Maw where it was believed he would perish.

Overcoming various challenges, the Hulk was placed in a group with fellow survivors the insectoid Miek (whom he had saved from the Corkers in the previous battle), a nameless Brood female, the Kronan Korg, Hiroim of the Shadow People, and the Imperials (natives of the same ruling class as the Red King) Lavin Skee and Elloe Kaifi. During their first group gladiatorial combat, an enthusiastic announcer nicknamed Hulk the "Green Scar" for a wound he received fighting the Red King. After proving themselves in combat, the gladiators were invited to join the Sakaar Democratic Insurgency; though the Hulk and others refused, Elloe sided with the rebel Insurgency, who were swiftly captured by Warguards. Recognizing the Hulk as extremely dangerous, the Red King's bound Shadow Warrior, Caiera the Oldstrong, attempted to buy him and take him out of combat, but he refused. The Red King subsequently had a bomb dropped on the gladiators, but the Hulk saved them, taking the full hit himself and then flattening the attacking Warguard, though Lavin Skee fell in combat. The remaining gladiators then joined together as Warbound, vowing loyalty to each other. Interestingly, in spots where the Hulk's blood touched the soil of Sakaar, Eleha'al vines began to grow, leading some to believe the Hulk was the Sakaarson, a being long prophesized as the savior of Sakaar.

The Warbound's next challenge was the Silver Surfer, who had also passed through the Great Portal and been enslaved by the Red King as the "Silver Savage." Surprised by his former ally's attack, the Hulk recovered and shattered the Surfer's control disk but nonetheless angrily beat him senseless. The Red King then offered the Warbound their freedom — as was custom after surviving three such combats — but only if they slew their former member Elloe. The Warbound refused despite the King's threats of destruction, and the Surfer then destroyed every control disk in the arena, allowing the Warbound, Surfer and others to break out and escape into the wilderness. The Surfer offered to take the Hulk with him as he departed, but the Hulk declined, having at last found friendship and a life he could enjoy.

Via sage advice from Hiroim and Korg, the Hulk evaded multiple attacks by the King's warriors, and his following grew steadily as Miek located a number of his insectoid brethren (thought long dead) and then liberated those in the Maw. The Hulk considered leaving his allies as he feared that he was not the Sakaarson, but instead another prophecy, the apocalyptic World Breaker; however, after Miek evolved into a much more powerful form as ruler of the insectoids, Hulk decided to continue to lead the rebels. Hoping to save Sakaar from prolonged war, Caiera met the Hulk in single combat, her Old Power proving an even match for his gamma-spawned might. The Red King, however, caring little for his people and wishing to end the Hulk's threat by any means possible, unleashed the Spikes — parasitic menaces whom his father had long ago banished to one of Sakaar's moons, able to infect and assimilate organic beings into their number — freeing them to slaughter the Warbound, his own troops (including Caiera) and even the innocent civilians nearby. The Hulk proved resistant to infection, and after the Red King had an entire city of civilians slaughtered by missile attack to destroy his enemies, Caiera vowed vengeance on him and joined the rebellion.

Seeking allies, the Hulk was denied the aid of the Shadow People but did claim their stone starship to aid the rebellion. Surprising all involved, the Hulk made an alliance with the elder Spikes, learning they only sought freedom from Sakaar's environment since it deprived them of stellar energy and drove them mad with hunger. The Hulk finally met and overpowered the Red King, who mercilessly slaughtered his own people during the battle, and cast him into the wilderness where he was consumed by Wildebots. The Hulk was pronounced the new king of Sakaar and he swiftly enforced peace between the formerly warring Imperials and insectoid Natives, after which he chose Caiera as his queen, undergoing her Shadow ritual and revealing his Banner form to her. Having sustained the Spikes with his own power, the Hulk had them sent back into space, and they gratefully returned the spirits of the lives they had unintentionally

absorbed on Sakaar, allowing those spirits' loved ones closure and the knowledge that they had achieved peace. By only the third day of his rule, the Hulk had earned massive approval and was making steps towards peace with long-time enemies of the Imperials when the warp core on the ship that had brought him to Sakaar exploded. The unleashed energies caused a chain reaction that shattered Crown City of Sakaar and slew the vast majority of the population, including Caiera, who was bearing the Hulk's child. Infuriated beyond comprehension and empowered even further by the explosion's energies, Hulk led Sakaar's few known survivors, including his Warbound and robot pilot Arch-E, in boarding the stone starship and heading to Earth for vengeance on the "Illuminati."

Arriving first on the moon, the Hulk savagely beat Black Bolt and then sent a transmission to Earth ordering Manhattan's evacuation that he might meet Iron Man, Dr. Strange and Reed Richards in combat. Iron Man faced him in a set of Hulkbuster armor but met a crushing defeat that shattered much of Avengers Tower as well. Overpowering all who tried to stop him — including Doc Samson, She-Hulk and two Avengers contingents — the Hulk then took down the entire Fantastic Four to get Richards. Despite his violent methods, the Hulk gained allies when Amadeus Cho organized the Renegades to assist him. Dr. Strange met Bruce Banner on the astral plane, but the Hulk crushed his hands, reducing his spell-casting ability. Tearing the roof off of Madison Square Garden, the Hulk made this his new gladiatorial arena, using Sakaarian slave disks to control the captured heroes and forcing his former banishers to fight each other. Strange then used a potion to obtain monstrous-strength via the immensely powerful magical entity Zom.

While Cho planned to gift the Hulk with his own land surrounding New Mexico's desert Base as a sanctuary, it seems the Hulk will not be content with anything but blood vengeance for the loss of his wife, his unborn child and his people. It remains to be seen what level of violence will satisfy him or if anyone can stop him. He has long said, "The madder Hulk gets, the stronger Hulk gets," and the Hulk has never been more enraged than he is now.



Art by Ron Garney

HEIGHT: (Banner) 5'9"; (gray Hulk) 6'6"; (green/savage Hulk) 7' — 8'; (green/Professor Hulk) 7'6"

WEIGHT: Banner) 128 lbs.; (gray Hulk) 900 lbs.; (green/savage Hulk) 1040 — 1400 lbs. (green/Professor Hulk) 1150 lbs.

EYES: (Banner) Brown; (gray Hulk) gray; (green Hulk) green

HAIR: (Banner) Brown; (gray Hulk) black; (green Hulk) green

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: The Hulk possesses the capacity for superhuman strength ranging beyond the limits of virtually any other known humanoid being. The gamma radiation that mutated his body fortified his cellular structure and added, from some as yet unknown (presumably extradimensional) source, several hundred pounds of bone, muscle and other tissue. In times of stress the Hulk's adrenaline level escalates, causing a corresponding escalation of strength. Thus, the madder the Hulk gets, the stronger the Hulk gets. This is usually not accompanied by an additional gain in mass, but does appear to promote increased levels of energy efficiency. The Hulk has not yet found an endpoint to his maximum strength, so its upper limit remains a mystery. While described as Class 100 strength, the Hulk has on times proven capable of exceeding this parameter several times over;

following exposure to the warp core breach on Sakaar, his baseline strength is even higher.

The Hulk periodically reverts to the human form of Bruce Banner, losing his extra mass and energy to the same source from which he derived it. The Hulk differs from many other gamma-irradiated human beings in that Banner was outside, exposed to sunlight, during his first heavy exposure to gamma radiation. This at least partially explains why the Hulk's color was initially gray, not green like most other gamma mutations. Moreover, this is also part of why Banner had transformed into the gray Hulk at nightfall and reverted to human form at the coming of dawn; however, it was later revealed that this was also partially due to Banner's shame over being the Hulk, and that he subconsciously forced himself to revert to human form in daylight to avoid being seen in his monstrous Hulk form. Though he has since managed to become the gray Hulk in daylight, he sometimes feels a burning sensation from sunlight contacting his skin.

The process by which Banner usually transforms into the Hulk has a chemical catalyst, adrenaline (aka epinephrine). As in normal

human beings, Banner's adrenal medulla secretes large amounts of adrenalin in times of fear, rage or stress, which hormonally stimulates the heart rate, raises blood-sugar levels and inhibits sensations of fatigue. Whereas the secretion heightens normal physical abilities in normal human beings, in Banner's case it triggers the complex chemical-extra-physical process that transforms him into the Hulk. The total transformation takes anywhere from seconds to as long as 5 minutes, depending on the initial adrenalin surge, which is determined by the original external stimulus. Soon after the transformation, Hulk's adrenalin levels will return to more normal, reduced levels. At varying points of time in his life, Banner has been able to mentally control the change, producing or inhibiting it in either direction. At many times in the past, Banner would revert to the Hulk, regardless of the time of day or night, whenever he underwent enough excitation to induce a sufficient surge of adrenalin to trigger the transformation. Similarly, often if the Hulk relaxed to a great enough degree, his adrenalin levels would decline and he would revert to human form; however, there are many known instances in which the Hulk was very relaxed or even slept without reverting to human form.

The Hulk is superhumanly durable and resistant to pain and disease. His skin can resist great heat without blistering (even tolerating the Human Torch's nova flame), great cold without freezing (down to absolute zero. -460 degrees Fahrenheit), and great impacts (he can survive direct hits by field artillery cannon shells or falls from the edge of the atmosphere). While it is possible to injure him, the Hulk also has vastly superhuman healing, enabling him to regenerate body tissue (including internal organs) within seconds to minutes; it once took him weeks to recover from a broken neck. It is not known what type of injury could kill the Hulk, but one of his alternate future counterparts was disintegrated by a nuclear level explosion, though he eventually reintegrated his form over a period of several years. The Hulk's highly efficient physiology renders him immune to all terrestrial diseases, and possibly to aging. Though Banner's form does not appear to share these immunities, some injuries will heal via transformation into the Hulk and vice versa. The Hulk can hold his breath for about an hour; his superhuman durability allows him to survive in the vacuum of space or at the ocean floor, though he would suffocate if too much time passed or if he were forced to expel his retained air. In particular, the Hulk is resistant to radiation, though in some circumstances, gamma radiation exposure has caused him to revert back into Banner. Similar effects have been achieved by draining the gamma radiation from the Hulk, or by exposing him to an uncertain type of radiation referred to as "gamma-negative rays."

The Hulk can use his superhumanly strong leg muscles to leap great distances, sometimes covering 3 miles in a single bound. He has even leapt so high into the atmosphere that he nearly achieved stable orbit. The Hulk can also produce destructive shockwaves by clapping his hands or stomping his foot. The Hulk's adrenalin levels counteract fatigue poisons; while fighting others in an enraged state, he can maintain peak output for hours on end and still continue to grow even stronger as his anger escalates. He has swum across both Atlantic and Pacific oceans, though he did become extremely exhausted in the process, presumably from lack of anger.

Bruce Banner suffers from dissociative identity disorder (aka multiple personality disorder or split personality). The Hulk's identities manifest the capacity for rage and violence that Banner, in his human form, has repressed all of his life. The extent of Banner's disorder has only recently been appreciated, and a number of identities or personalities have been discovered. Chief among these identities are the reserved, Bruce Banner core identity, highly intelligent but virtually devoid of emotion; the "savage Hulk" identity, which has childlike levels of intelligence and curiosity, with a longing for friendship and love, and is prone to violent fits of rage (the "savage" Hulk is usually unaware that he is actually Banner, whom he sees as a different person and an enemy); the Joe Fixit identity (usually in the gray Hulk), lacking

Banner's advanced intellect and scientific knowledge, is exceptionally clever and crafty, with selfish motives and desires, and similarly prone to violence; the "Professor" or "merged Hulk" identity, possessing all of Banner's intellect and the savage Hulk's strength, with normal emotional capacity, though still quite prone to violence; the "mindless" Hulk, when Banner's influence has been completely removed; and the "devil" Hulk identity, malevolent and destructive, kept submerged deep within Banner's psyche, but constantly struggling to escape and take over. By some accounts, there are dozens, if not hundreds, of different personality fragments within Banner/Hulk's psyche. The distinctions between these identities have differed significantly over time, with Banner himself having a variable capacity for emotion. At times, the Banner identity has had changing levels of control over the Hulk. Similarly, Banner's memories of his actions as the Hulk — and vice versa — vary significantly. Even the alleged "merged Hulk" seemingly proved to be yet one more splinter identity, a fragment of the whole renamed the "Professor."

His different identities produce outward effects on the Hulk's form, sometimes making him larger or smaller, gray or green, more human or more bestial in appearance, and even stronger or weaker. Among his more unusual transformations, Banner has taken on aspects of gray and green Hulks on opposite sides of his body; Banner's head has remained atop the savage Hulk's form; Banner has been trapped midway between human and Hulk forms, with changes appearing either diffusely or multifocally; and Banner's head has even poked out of the back of the savage Hulk's body. Following a transfusion from Sandra Verdugo, Banner could manifest superhuman strength and durability without transforming into the Hulk. Banner has even been physically separated from the Hulk's form on occasion, but neither form can long survive without the other. In addition, Banner's identity disorder is a large reason why efforts to remove the Hulk's powers or to keep Banner's mind in dominance have met with failure. Under certain circumstances, different aspects of Banner and the various Hulks' personalities can communicate on some sort of psychic plane. Certain magical spells or scientific equipment — such as the Encephelo-Helmet — have allowed Banner's mind to dominate the Hulk's form for a time.

The Hulk has two powers unrelated to his physical abilities. He can see astral (spirit) forms, normally invisible to the naked eye. This ability somehow relates to his guilty conscience over his role in his father's death; he is subconsciously afraid of encountering his father's angry spirit. His other such power is a homing ability that enables him to locate the area in New Mexico where he first became the Hulk. This was actually caused by the Maestro, who had been pulled back in time and was disintegrated by the gamma bomb explosion. The Maestro psychically summoned the Hulk back to that spot to absorb gamma radiation from him, which eventually enabled the Maestro to re-form. Presumably the Hulk can still locate the site via the psychic bond, even though the Maestro is no longer exerting his influence on him.

Following the separation of most of Banner's persona into a separate Hulk on Counter-Earth, the Hulk remaining on Earth served as a walking nexus of reality and gave off increased levels of gamma radiation. His mystic nature had been enhanced by the traumatic injury to his brain and then his involvement with Onslaught. As War, the Hulk possessed heightened strength and durability, and used a highly durable sword and whip. While serving as a gladiator on Sakaar, he swiftly learned a variety of combat skills, especially with a sword or battleaxe.



ILLUMINATI

FORMER MEMBERS: Black Bolt (Blackagar Boltagon), Dr. Strange (Stephen Strange), Iron Man (Tony Stark), Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards), Professor X (Charles Xavier), Sub-Mariner (Namor McKenzie)

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Various secret locations (often mobile)

FIRST APPEARANCE: New Avengers #7 (2005)

HISTORY: Following Earth's involvement in the interstellar Kree/Skrull war, Iron Man (Tony Stark) of the Avengers sought a meeting with other leading super heroes to discuss preventive measures to ensure Earth's future safety. In response, Wakanda's king the Black Panther (T'Challa) hosted a secret meeting attended by Iron Man, Earth's Sorcerer Supreme Dr. Strange, the X-Men's founder Professor Charles Xavier, Reed Richards of the Fantastic Four, the Inhumans' king Black Bolt, and Atlantean ruler Namor. Iron Man proposed that they form an alliance to pool resources and information, and, despite Namor's initial misgivings, the majority of the group agreed. To ensure trust between the members, they decided to keep their pact secret from everyone, including teammates and families. T'Challa was the sole dissenting voice, concerned over what might happen if the group ever disagreed on a course of action, and he declined to join the alliance. The group then discussed the sentient island Krakoa before adjourning to go their separate ways. During a subsequent meeting, the group confronted the Skrulls and warned them not to

attempt another invasion of Earth, but the Skrulls captured and tortured the heroes. Despite being stripped of his armor, Stark resisted the Skrulls' interrogation efforts and escaped his cell. Freeing the others, together they stole a ship and escaped back to Earth.

Xavier next called a meeting to discuss the apparent return of the seemingly omnipotent Beyonder. Sans Iron Man, the group located the Beyonder on the planetoid Ceres in the asteroid belt where he had created a facsimile of Manhattan complete with faux populace and superhumans. Though he tempted them with their life's desires, the group ultimately denied him and he left the confines of the universe. After a mass breakout at the maximum security superhuman prison the Raft that led to the re-formation of the Avengers, the pact members questioned Stark as to why he had not notified them of these events. This led to discussion regarding the supremely powerful hero the Sentry (Bob Reynolds), who had assisted in the Raft crisis and subsequently overcame his evil alter ego the Void with aid from the pact partners and many other heroes. Richards then received the Power Gem, one of the vastly powerful Infinity Gems, from She-Hulk after she had retrieved it from her nemesis Titania. Resolving to keep the remaining Gems from falling into evil hands again, Reed obtained the Soul Gem, the Space Gem and the Infinity Gauntlet, a glove previously used to unite and wield the Gems. He then told the secret alliance of his project. Working together, they gathered the Mind Gem, the Reality Gem and the Time Gem. Holding the complete set of Gems, Richards was tempted by the Gauntlet's ultimate power, but he resisted its allure and distributed the Gems among the group for safekeeping, each member holding one gem in a secret location known only to himself. The alliance later met to discuss the recent declaration of war against Earth by the Kree soldier Marvel Boy (Noh-Varr) and sought a means to convince him otherwise, confronting him in his cell in the maximum security prison the Cube. After meeting with each member of the group in turn and learning more about humanity and its past dealings with Kree such as the heroic Mar-Vell, Noh-Varr recanted.

Following the Hulk's latest rampage through Las Vegas, the alliance decided to send him to a distant uninhabited planet where he might find peace. Namor violently opposed this plan and quit the alliance in disgust. Iron Man later called the group — including Namor — to another meeting to discuss the Superhuman Registration Act. Stark urged them to come out in favor of the Act, but only Richards sided with him while the rest refused, leaving the alliance fractured. Meanwhile, the Hulk's spacecraft was thrown off-course and crash-landed on the planet Sakaar, where he helped its inhabitants overthrow their tyrannical emperor and became their new ruler; however, the warp core of his ship subsequently exploded, killing most of the world's inhabitants, including the Hulk's new bride Caiera who was carrying his unborn child. Furious, the Hulk led the survivors to Earth to seek revenge. Arriving on the moon, the Hulk beat Black Bolt into submission, then warned Earth of his return and the truth behind his banishment. The Hulk next targeted Xavier, but was opposed by the various X-teams until he was convinced to depart peacefully by Mercury. Moving on to Manhattan, the Hulk bested Iron Man and Richards in quick succession. After repelling Strange's attempts to infiltrate his mind, the Hulk then physically faced a demonically-empowered Strange.

NOTE: While some accounts of their activities referred to them as the Illuminati, the alliance discussed here had no official group name.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: IRON MAN, BLACK BOLT, DR. STRANGE, MR. FANTASTIC, NAMOR & PROFESSOR X



Art by Alex Maleev

Art by Jim Cheung & Steve McNiven

KEY PERSONNEL: Baron von Blitzschlag (scientist), Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell, prison warden), Curt Connors (scientist), Gauntlet (unrevealed, drill sergeant), Henry Peter Gyrich (US secretary of the superhuman armed forces), Iron Man (Tony Stark, Initiative founder and SHIELD director), Justice (Vance Astrovik, youth counselor), Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers, Avengers leader & Operation: Lightning Storm director), War Machine (Jim Rhodes, Camp Hammond base commander), Yellowjacket (Hank Pym, chief scientist); formerly Baron Zemo (Helmut Zemo, former Thunderbolts director), Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards, scientist), Radioactive Man (Chen Lu, scientist)

INSTRUCTORS: Ares, Batroc (Georges Batroc), Black Widow (Natalia Romanova), Doc Samson (Leonard Samson), Gauntlet (unrevealed), Hellcat (Patsy Walker), Justice (Vance Astrovik), Danielle Moonstar, Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers), Nighthawk (Kyle Richmond), Stingray (Walter Newell), Thing (Ben Grimm), Tigra (Greer Nelson), War Machine (Jim Rhodes), Wonder Man (Simon Williams), Yellowjacket (Hank Pym); formerly She-Hulk (Jennifer Walters)

GENERAL RECRUITS: Anthem (Henry Hellrung), Aphrodite (unrevealed), Araña (Anya Corazon), Beast (Hank McCoy), Bengal (Duc No Tranh), Big Bertha (Ashley Crawford), Bishop (Lucas Bishop), Mulholland Black, Calamity (James Wa), Cloud 9 (Abigail, full name unrevealed), Constrictor (Frank Payne), Debrii (Deborah Fields), Doorman (DeMarr Davis), Flatman (Val Ventura), Firebird (Bonita Juarez), Force Works (participants unrevealed), Gargoyle (Isaac Christians), Hardball (Roger Brokeridge), Heavy (Dennis Murray), Hercules (unrevealed), Living Lightning (Miguel Santos), Komodo (Melati, full name unrevealed), Machine Man (X-51 a.k.a. Aaron Stack), Mr. Immortal (Craig Hollis),

HISTORY: The Initiative — also known as the Fifty-State Initiative — is a United States federal government program designed to monitor, regulate, coordinate and train America's super heroes, forging many of them into a nationwide army.

The Initiative is built around the Superhuman Registration Act (SHRA), sometimes called the "Super Hero Registration Act." The most sweeping legislation of its kind to date, the SHRA seeks the registration and regulation of all confirmed or suspected superhuman beings; all people armed with unique or exotic technologies that simulate or approximate superhuman powers; and all masked or costumed crime-fighters, regardless of whether they possess special powers or unique technologies. While the text of the act itself refers only to the registration of actual superhumans, officials are allowed wide latitude in terms of enforcement, erring on the side of inclusiveness; as such, anyone whose methods or abilities echo those of a typical super-powered hero is potentially required to register.

The SHRA legislation was passed in response to the Stamford disaster, when a televised clash between the heroic New Warriors and several super-criminals in Stamford, Connecticut caused an explosion that killed 612 civilians, including over 60 schoolchildren. As public sentiment began to turn against super heroes in general, the super-hero community was divided over how to respond to the SHRA. Rejecting the legislation on principle, Captain America (Steve Rogers) led an underground army of "Secret Avengers" in rebelling against the new law.

Meanwhile, scientific geniuses Iron Man (Tony Stark), Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards) and Yellowjacket (Hank Pym) championed the pro-SHRA cause. Convinced that the SHRA was a necessary evil, and fearing the government might implement the legislation more harshly if the heroes didn't police themselves, the trio spent the night after the Stamford disaster brainstorming a hundred different ideas and plans in support of the legislation, then took those plans to the federal government. Led by billionaire futurist Stark with funding from Stark, elite international intelligence agency SHIELD and the federal government, the pro-registration movement quickly grew as the SHRA passed into law and various heroes registered. Iron Man's protégé Spider-Man even

Network (Valerie Martin), Phantom Rider (Hamilton Slade), Pepper Potts, Rage (Elvin Halliday), Red Wolf (Will Talltrees), Becky Ryan, Scorpion (Carmilla Black), Sentry (Bob Reynolds), She-Hulk (Jennifer Walters), Rick Sheridan, Shooting Star (Victoria Star), Slapstick (Steve Harmon), Sleepwalker (unrevealed), Spaceknights (participants unrevealed), Squirrel Girl (Doreen Green), Stature (Cassie Lang), Supernaut (Michael Fields), Texas Twister (Drew Daniels), Thing (Ben Grimm), Thor Girl (Tarene), Trauma (Terrance Ward), Triathlon (Delroy Garrett Jr.), Ultragirl (Suzy Sherman), Veda (Magdalena Marie), Wasp (Janet Van Dyne), many unspecified others

FORMER RECRUITS: Arachne (Julia Carpenter), Armadillo (Antonio Rodriguez), Armory (unrevealed), Atlas (Erik Josten), Avona (unrevealed), Bannerman Brown, Bannerman Green, Blizzard (Donald Gill), Corona (Carlos, full name unrevealed), Fixer (Norbert Ebersol), Invisible Woman (Sue Richards), Joystick (Janice Yanizeski), Maul (unrevealed), Moonstone (Karla Sofen), MACH-4 (Abe Jenkins), MVP (Michael Van Patrick), Pierce (Pam, full name unrevealed), Radioactive Man (Chen Lu), Smuggler (Conrad Josten), Songbird (Melissa Gold), Spider-Man (Peter Parker), Swordsman (Andreas von Strucker), Thor (cybernetic clone of the Asgardian god)

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Camp Hammond, Stamford, Connecticut; also mobile aboard SHIELD Helicarriers & minicarriers and via Negative Zone portals, in addition to operating out of various secondary bases throughout the United States

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Unnamed) Civil War #2 (2006); (named) Civil War #7 (2007)

publicly revealed his secret identity as Peter Parker in a show of support for the SHRA.

Pro-SHRA forces began hunting down and arresting unregistered heroes with the help of SHIELD's "Cape-Killers," new high-tech troops specially equipped to take down super heroes. The pro-SHRA alliance also hired various super-mercenaries to assist in their operations, and even employed various super-criminals willing to work with them, capturing and processing many of these criminals with the aid of Baron Zemo's Thunderbolts, a heroic team of former super-villains. Thunderbolts member Radioactive Man (Chen Lu) also joined Stark, Richards and Pym in their ongoing scientific work, notably the development of a high-tech prison located in the other-dimensional Negative Zone; this prison, officially dubbed "42" (as the 42nd concept brainstormed by the original pro-SHRA trio) and sometimes nicknamed "Fantasy Island," was specially designed to hold super-criminals as well as any super heroes who refused to comply with the SHRA. When a space-time anomaly brought a past-era incarnation of long-dead hero Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell) into the present, the pro-SHRA forces convinced him to serve as warden of their new prison.

The pro-SHRA alliance began super-hero training programs at facilities such as Quantico, Virginia and Stark Tower in Manhattan. They also launched multiple projects designed to create or empower new super heroes, both to bolster the pro-SHRA ranks and to support the SHRA's long-term goal of deploying government-backed heroes nationwide. For instance, the pro-SHRA scientists led the development of a new Champions super-team in California, later known as the Order; they also produced a partially cybernetic clone of the long-missing Asgardian hero Thor, though it proved dangerously unstable and killed the anti-registration hero Goliath (Bill Foster) before Olympian demigod Hercules smashed it. Increasingly disillusioned by Stark's many moral compromises, Spider-Man switched sides and joined the Secret Avengers.

The super-hero civil war finally ended when Captain America realized the general public supported the SHRA. Unwilling to wage further war against the will of the American people, he surrendered himself to the authorities and ordered his troops to stand down. Shortly thereafter,

several of his criminal enemies had him assassinated while he was in federal custody. Most of the anti-SHRA movement fell apart without his leadership, though a handful of anti-registration Avengers led by Luke Cage went underground and continued the resistance. Most of the other anti-registration rebels accepted an offer of amnesty in exchange for registering with the SHRA.

Having won the war, the pro-SHRA forces reorganized as the Initiative and publicly unveiled their long-term plan to station teams of trained, government-regulated super heroes in all 50 states. For instance, the Order and newly formed versions of Force Works and the Spaceknights were assigned to California, Iowa and Illinois, respectively; the eccentric novice heroes originally known as the "Great Lakes Avengers" became the Great Lakes Initiative in Wisconsin; the long-inactive Southwestern super-team known as the Rangers was reassembled, expanded and stationed in Texas; and Iron Man recruited Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers) to lead a hand-picked Avengers roster as New York's primary resident super-team, nicknamed the Mighty Avengers; Ms. Marvel was also assigned her own personal strike force, Operation: Lightning Storm, allowing her to lead specialized teams of SHIELD agents and Initiative heroes as needed. Only a fraction of the Initiative's recruits serve on the primary super-teams assigned to each state, but all Initiative personnel can serve with Initiative squads on various missions as needed. In effect, the Initiative has become the USA's superhuman armed forces; however, SHRA registrants are not obligated to work with the Initiative if they are neither active as adventurers nor openly using special abilities.

At least one federally sanctioned team operates outside of the Initiative's command structure: the newly reorganized Thunderbolts, overseen by the Commission on Superhuman Activities (CSA). Disgraced tycoon Norman Osborn, alias the insane super-criminal Green Goblin, was released from jail and placed in charge of a revamped Thunderbolts team in Colorado, managing a roster that consists primarily of various convicted super-criminals pressed into CSA service. Acting as federal marshals, the Thunderbolts specialize in the location and apprehension of unregistered super heroes.

While nations such as Wakanda, Atlantis and Costa Verde have objected to the SHRA or certain aspects of its enforcement, other countries such as Canada, China, Great Britain and Israel have been supportive of the USA's Initiative, with countries sharing resources, information and operatives as needed. For instance, SHIELD and the Initiative have helped Canadian security agency CSIS develop its new Omega Flight super-team. Foreign nationals operating within the United States must register with the SHRA, though they are not expected to serve with the Initiative unless they are current longtime residents of the USA.

The Initiative is jointly overseen by SHIELD and its newly appointed director, Tony Stark, and the United States government, represented by Secretary of the Superhuman Armed Forces Henry Peter Gyrich, a CSA veteran with extensive superhuman relations experience. With most of the world's mutant population de-powered by the recent "M-Day" incident, superhumans are now primarily produced by scientific flukes, extraterrestrial contact or mystical incidents. America being a hotbed of all of the above, the USA is now home to the vast majority of the world's super-beings. Gyrich's goal is to place those super-beings as tightly under government control as possible, to neutralize them if they cannot be controlled, and to seek ways to usurp or replicate their technology and abilities if possible; however, most other senior Initiative personnel do not share his ruthless and exploitative ethics.

Reed Richards stepped down from active duty to concentrate on rebuilding his troubled marriage, and Radioactive Man is serving exclusively with the Thunderbolts, but Hank Pym remains active as the Initiative's chief scientist. The most notable member of his research staff is Baron von Blitzschlag, a former Nazi super-villain pressed into

government service. Like Gyrich, Blitzschlag takes a rather coldly amoral approach to his work, though Pym tries to moderate these tendencies as best he can. Another key participant in Initiative scientific research is Dr. Curt Connors, whose reptile-based organic regeneration experiments have triggered his occasional transformations into the monstrous Lizard.

The Initiative has established its main headquarters and training facility in Stamford, Connecticut, as a symbolic gesture of their determination to prevent any further Stamford-like tragedies by shaping a new generation of heroes. This new military base is named Camp Hammond in memory of the late Jim Hammond, the original android Human Torch, one of America's earliest super heroes. Camp Hammond provides basic training in various subjects, notably combat, first aid and superhuman ethics. Trainees who pass all these tests have their registration cards upgraded to a full super hero's license, and the best of these newly licensed super heroes are offered postings with the Initiative's various state-based super-teams. When super heroes are operating independently, their registration cards or super hero's licenses can be verified using scanning devices issued to local law enforcement authorities. Registrants required to testify or otherwise participate in legal proceedings will be contacted within 10 days via encrypted e-mail with times and dates.

While recruits' real names are registered with the government, the actual data is managed, archived and protected by Tony Stark himself, granting access to only the highest-ranking SHIELD officials. Initiative personnel encourage new registrants to keep their identities as secret as possible, and new recruits are issued masks to wear during Initiative missions if they do not already use some other means of disguise. Most trainees and some instructors wear military-style garb, but each uniform's shirt is uniquely styled to identify its individual wearer. Trainees are discouraged from using their real names at Camp Hammond, and are also discouraged from openly using their powers off-base unless they are masked or otherwise disguised. This is partly a privacy issue, but also reflects the fact that the Initiative has neither the inclination nor the resources to protect all its recruits and their loved ones if all of their identities become public knowledge.

Camp Hammond's overall commander is War Machine (Jim Rhodes), an armored hero with military experience and a longtime friend of Tony Stark. Other senior staff members at the base include federal government representative Gyrich; scientists Pym and Blitzschlag; Gauntlet, an intensely patriotic U.S. military operative armed with an alien power gauntlet, who left the war in Iraq to become Camp Hammond's hard-driving drill sergeant; a wide variety of experienced super heroes who serve as instructors; and youth counselor Justice (Vance Astrovik), a telekinetic former New Warrior who offers guidance to the program's more youthful recruits (the SHRA places no limit on how young or old a registrant can be).

The program's notable young trainees to date have included Armory, a woman bonded with an alien "Tactigon" weapon that reconfigures itself into an infinite variety of weapons; Cloud 9, a timid girl who can generate and manipulate a possibly extraterrestrial gas that enables her to fly and produce smoke screens; Hardball, a cocky energy-sphere generator who seems to be hiding a dark secret; the reckless Komodo, who transformed herself into a half-reptile super-being after stealing and modifying Curt Connors' Lizard formula; MVP, a charismatic and supremely gifted athlete whose scholarship was stripped away on suspicion of artificial enhancement after he was revealed to be the great-grandson of the late Abraham Erskine, creator of the super-soldier formula; and Trauma, a troubled youth who can transform himself into the physical embodiment of other people's greatest fears. All six of these recruits were involved in a training exercise that went wrong when Trauma terrified Armory into firing her weapon blindly, fatally shooting MVP. Gyrich immediately ordered a cover-up of the incident, instructing the staff and trainees present to keep MVP's demise a secret. Armory

was dishonorably discharged from the Initiative and stripped of her Tactigon weapon.

In addition to Pym's scientific labs and all the conventional resources of a military base (such as obstacle courses and a "war room" where officials can remotely monitor battles in progress), Camp Hammond houses a high-tech combat simulator custom-designed for superhuman fighters. The base's "jump gate" is an interdimensional portal allowing instant access to the Initiative's Negative Zone prison complex. At least one jump gate will be stationed in each of the USA's 50 states. The jump gates enable instantaneous state-to-state travel since users can pass from one jump gate into the Negative Zone and out another jump gate at a different location, but this method of travel is generally reserved for emergencies since too many state-to-state jumps erode the barriers between our positive matter universe and the antimatter Negative Zone.

A contingent of SHIELD "Cape-Killers" is stationed at Camp Hammond to help contain any rogue superhuman activity. The facility also hosts a team of "Scarlet Spiders," covert operatives wearing the Stark-designed stealth armor formerly used by Spider-Man. Camp Hammond supplies Initiative staff and recruits with high-tech combat accessories such as jet packs (for personal flight) or energy pulse rifles, should a given mission require such items. Initiative agents have also begun using weaponry equipped with Superhuman Power Inhibiting Nannites (SPIN), microscopic robots that infest a target's body and permanently neutralize its superhuman powers, though questions have arisen regarding these weapons' legality.

Much of Camp Hammond's technology and training techniques are adapted from the resources of the Avengers, one of the country's most long-established and prestigious super-hero teams. In addition, many Initiative recruits and staff members are current or former members of the Avengers. As such, Camp Hammond is sometimes informally referred to as an Avengers operation, recruits are encouraged to live up to Avengers standards, and field leaders have even used the traditional "Avengers Assemble!" rallying cry during battle, but this identification of Initiative troops with the Avengers is not an official status — Initiative recruits are not automatically awarded Avengers membership. Gyrich has also assembled a covert "Shadow Initiative" squad for special operations.

Despite internal tensions arising from MVP's death and its cover-up, the Initiative has been largely successful in its operations to date, most notably when the Rangers and an airborne Initiative squad led by War Machine and Gauntlet succeeded in saving the President of the United States from an all-out assault by the high-tech terrorist group Hydra. Hank Pym was awarded the presidential Medal of Freedom for his heroism during that battle. Certain senior staff are also secretly seeking ways to replicate the late MVP's genetic material, having discovered his physically perfect physique was entirely natural, a product of neither mutation nor artificial enhancement. While the Initiative still tracks and apprehends rogue unregistered super-beings (notably ongoing attempts to capture Spider-Man and other members of Luke Cage's underground Avengers), it is gradually transferring more of the responsibility for that task to the CSA's Thunderbolts.



IRON MAN
(Tony Stark)
Registered: Civil War #1 (2006)
Founder, SHIELD director, Avengers



YELLOWJACKET
(Hank Pym)
Registered: Civil War #1 (2006)
Founder, chief scientist



MR. FANTASTIC
(Reed Richards)
Registered: Civil War #1 (2006)
Founder, scientist



HENRY PETER GYRICH
Active: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Secretary of superhuman armed forces



WAR MACHINE
(Jim Rhodes)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Camp Hammond commander



RADIOACTIVE MAN
(Chen Lu)
Registered: Thunderbolts #103 (2006)
Thunderbolts, scientist



BARON VON BLITZSCHLAG
Active: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Scientist



CURT CONNORS
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Scientist



GAUNTLET
(unrevealed)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Drill sergeant, instructor



JUSTICE
(Vance Astrovik)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Youth counsellor, instructor



CAPTAIN MARVEL
(Mar-Vell)
Registered: Civil War: the Return #1 (2007)
Prison warden



MS MARVEL
(Carol Danvers)
Registered: Civil War #2 (2006)
Avengers leader, Operation: Lightning Storm head, instructor



BLACK WIDOW
(Natalia Romanova)
Registered: Civil War #3 (2006)
Avengers, instructor



HELLCAT
(Patsy Walker)
Registered: She-Hulk #10 (2006)
Instructor



STINGRAY
(Walter Newell)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Instructor



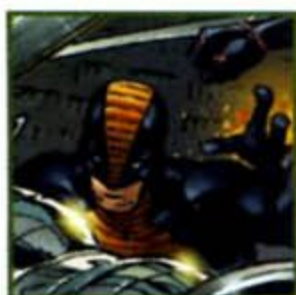
ARMORY
(unrevealed)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Discharged, former trainee



BENGAL
(Duc No Tranh)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Shadow Initiative



CLOUD 9
(Abigail, full name unrevealed)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee



CONSTRUCTOR
(Frank Payne)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Shadow Initiative



HARDBALL
(Roger Brokeridge)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee



KOMODO
(Melati, full name unrevealed)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee



MYP
(Michael Van Patrick)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee, deceased



RAGE
(Elvin Halliday)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee



TRAUMA
(Terrance Ward)
Registered: Avengers: the Initiative #1 (2007)
Trainee, Shadow Initiative

RICK JONES

REAL NAME: Richard Milhouse "Rick" Jones

ALIASES: Formerly Bucky, the Hulk

IDENTITY: Publicly known

OCCUPATION: Musician, adventurer, author; formerly talk show host

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Scarsdale, Arizona

KNOWN RELATIVES: Marlo Chandler Jones (wife), Polly (aunt), Mrs. Chandler (mother-in-law), Keith Chandler, Ray Chandler, three unidentified others (brothers-in-law), unidentified father (deceased), Jackie Shorr (alleged mother; unconfirmed)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Deputized agent of SHIELD, financier of the Loners, honorary member of the Avengers, former leader of the Teen Brigade

EDUCATION: High school dropout

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #1 (1962)



HISTORY: Rick Jones was orphaned at an early age. Before his father died, he gave Rick his guitar, his most prized possession. Rick was placed in an orphanage called Tempest Town, where he honed his guitar skills. He also tried to rebel against the corrupt orphanage administrators, who destroyed his guitar as punishment. Having taken enough abuse, Rick broke out of Tempest Town. Drifting into various menial jobs, he traveled aimlessly across the American Southwest. At the age of 16, he found himself in New Mexico near the US Air Force's Desert Base, where, unknown to Jones, the gamma bomb weapon was being developed by Dr. Bruce Banner. Teenager Gary Swanson dared Rick to enter the bomb test site, and Rick happily complied, unaware that the bomb was scheduled to be tested that very day. Rick had parked his car on the test site and begun playing his harmonica when Dr. Banner ran onto the site. Placing himself at risk, Banner dragged Rick to safety, pushing him into a protective trench; however, just as Jones fell into the trench, the bomb detonated and Banner was caught in the blast. That evening, Rick watched as Banner transformed into the monstrous Hulk for the first time.

Rick blamed himself for Banner's condition and resolved to help him find a cure. He and Banner set up various cavernous hideouts in the desert where the Hulk could be temporarily confined. Although the Hulk distrusted most humans, Rick maintained an uneasy friendship with him. At one point, Jones briefly obtained psychic control over the Hulk's actions, but lost the ability after another attempt at curing Banner. The Hulk and Rick temporarily parted ways when the Air Force apprehended Hulk, who blamed Jones for his capture. Discovering that some of his friends had become ham radio enthusiasts, Rick realized that they could use their talents to aid the authorities by setting up a nationwide network of teenaged radio operators. Dubbing themselves the "Teen Brigade," they assisted the Hulk against the Metal Master, and Rick thereby regained the Hulk's companionship.

When the Asgardian god Loki framed the Hulk for attacking a train, Rick had the Teen Brigade broadcast a distress message to the Fantastic Four, hoping that they could help prove the Hulk's innocence; however, Loki diverted the radio message to his step-brother Thor, hoping that the Hulk could defeat Thor for him. Loki's message was also accidentally received by Ant-Man (Henry Pym), the Wasp and Iron Man (Tony Stark), who ultimately teamed with Hulk and Thor to defeat Loki. The five remained together as the heroic Avengers thereafter, and Rick continued to assist them with the Teen Brigade, even after the Hulk quit their ranks. Jones was eventually granted honorary membership in the Avengers. Soon after the Hulk's departure, the Avengers revived the wartime hero Captain America (Steve Rogers), who joined the team. The Captain found that Rick resembled his long-lost sidekick Bucky Barnes, and began to train Jones in hand-to-hand combat. Although Rick wanted to become the new Bucky, the Captain refused; afraid of seeing another young partner die, the Captain also vetoed any suggestion of granting Rick full Avengers membership. Passed over for full membership when the remaining Avengers founders left the team and recruited replacements, a disappointed Rick left the Avengers and returned to help the Hulk, spending most of his time among Air Force officers General Thaddeus E. Ross and Major Glenn Talbot, pleading on the Hulk's behalf. At one point, thinking the Hulk was dead, Rick revealed to them that Banner and Hulk were the same person, bringing an end to Banner's secrecy.

Rick once interceded in the midst of a fight between the Hulk and Captain America, and the Hulk nearly killed Rick, not realizing his own strength. Captain America saved Rick, and Jones decided to take on the costumed identity of Bucky despite the Captain's protests. He aided Captain America against the forces of Hydra and AIM, but when Captain America's mind was exchanged with that of his enemy the Red Skull, the Skull in Cap's body drove Rick away. Rick gave up the Bucky identity.

Unknowingly influenced by the Kree ruler Supreme Intelligence, Rick was guided to an abandoned Kree outpost in the Southwest and

Art by Adrian Alphona



compelled to don a pair of Kree weapons called Nega-Bands. Striking the bands together, Jones was teleported into the Negative Zone, from which the Kree hero Captain Mar-Vell was released, and the two became both

molecularly and telepathically bonded. Thereafter, they would exchange places between Earth's dimension and the Negative Zone by striking the bands together. Despite the frequent interruptions to his personal life, Rick became a somewhat successful professional musician, gaining the attention of promoter Mordecai P. Boggs. After the duo learned that the Fantastic Four had a portal to the Negative Zone in their Baxter Building headquarters, Mar-Vell used their technology to set Rick free. Jones was then almost immediately captured by the Kree, who were in the midst of an intergalactic war with the Skrulls. The Supreme Intelligence had Rick brought to him, and helped Jones realize that he could tap into a near-infinite source of power (later identified as the Destiny Force). Rick's first use of the power was to fashion simulacra of super heroes he recalled from his boyhood, using them to defend himself. His next act was to use the power to halt all of the Kree and Skrull troops, freezing them in time. Rick nearly died from the effort, but Mar-Vell bonded himself to Jones again, saving his life. Rick and Mar-Vell continued to adventure together against menaces such as Thanos, before finally being permanently released from their link by tricking the Super-Adaptoid into taking Mar-Vell's place in the Negative Zone. Thereafter, Rick continued to aid Mar-Vell in his adventures, including battling the rogue creations of ISAAC on Titan. When Mar-Vell discovered that he had contracted cancer, Rick was upset by Mar-Vell's seemingly blasé acceptance of his death, but Jones ultimately joined his friend at his deathbed.

Deciding to return to the Hulk's aid, Jones organized a new Teen Brigade. Rick found himself the senior member of this group, and while aiding the Hulk against the villainous Corruptor they caused a near repeat of history when their distress call to the Avengers instead gathered the heroes who became known as the Rangers. The new Teen Brigade was disbanded when the members' parents objected to their children's involvement. Shortly thereafter, Rick was briefly devolved into primitive primate form by the High Evolutionary, who goaded the Hulk into assisting his efforts at suicide; the Evolutionary restored Rick before fading from existence. When the alien "Hulk-Hunters" — Amphibion, Dark-Crawler and Torgo — confronted the Hulk (actually seeking to recruit the Hulk's aid against the Galaxy Master), Rick exposed himself to Banner's gamma ray projector, thinking it would transform him into another Hulk. Rick instead developed radiation poisoning and had to be saved by the alien Krylorian Bereet, who halted his deterioration until the return of the Hulk, who had recently begun to manifest Banner's consciousness in the Hulk's body and who used Gamma Base's equipment to drain the radiation from Rick's body. After the Hulk was granted a presidential pardon, Rick decided that Banner no longer needed him, and they parted ways.

Months later, Rick was horrified to learn that he had contracted cancer from his gamma ray experiment, and seemed doomed to perish in the same way Mar-Vell had. Encountering the Galadorian Spaceknight Rom, Rick became one of Rom's closest allies on Earth, and helped



gather resistance against the forces of the extraterrestrial Dire Wraiths. When the threat of the Dire Wraiths had passed, Rom left Earth behind. Rick soon encountered the omnipotent Beyonder, who was on a quest

to understand humanity's desires. The Beyonder briefly transformed Rick into a powerful superhuman form, but Rick ultimately decided not to keep the powers, and that his truest desire was to be cured of cancer. The Beyonder complied with his wish.

When Banner was physically separated from the Hulk by Doc Samson's nutrient bath, Rick served as best man at Banner's wedding to his long-time love Betty Ross. When both Banner and the Hulk began to suffer from their separation until they seemed near death, they reentered the nutrient bath. General Ross made an attempt on Banner's life, and Rick struggled with him, falling into the nutrient bath himself. Banner seemed cured of being the Hulk, and Rick initially showed no ill effects, but he soon began transforming into the Hulk at night, just as Banner's transformations had originally occurred. Banner, meanwhile, had regained his Hulk powers, but had regressed to his initial gray appearance, and the duo tried to help each other cure their conditions. As the Hulk, Rick fought Zzzax while it was possessed by General Ross, battled the Hulkbusters and befriended the gamma-irradiated Outcasts. Rick was finally cured when the Hulk's enemy the Leader had the gamma radiation drained from Jones in order to reignite his own lost powers. Thereafter, the Leader and Rick shared a minor psychic link.

Rick continued to aid the Hulk against his enemies, and was present when the Hulk seemingly perished attempting to dismantle the Leader's gamma bomb in Middletown, Arizona. Rick stayed with Betty for a time to help her adjust to Banner's death, and he began work on his memoirs, titled "Sidekick." Rick's book caused a minor sensation, and even attracted the attention of extraterrestrials who were put out when they discovered that the biography did not hold the secrets of the Destiny Force. Rick left Betty as he began a book tour, and he started a relationship with Marlo Chandler, unaware that she had been the girlfriend of the long-since returned Hulk in his identity as "Joe Fixit." While on tour, Rick was captured by the Skrulls, hoping to learn the Destiny Force's secrets. Rick was reunited with the Hulk and Betty while battling the Skrulls, and helped the Hulk as he received psychiatric aid from Doc Samson that resulted in a more balanced Hulk persona. With his new mindset, Hulk became an operative (and eventual leader) of the Pantheon, and Rick aided in some of the organization's missions. While the Pantheon was in the country of Trans-Sabal, Rick assassinated its dictatorial ruler Farnoq Dahn, having himself witnessed many of the atrocities Dahn's men had committed. Rick was profoundly impacted by having taken another man's life. The fame Jones obtained from his book brought him into contact with Jackie Shorr, a psychotic woman claiming to be Rick's mother. While Rick was being held captive in Shorr's basement, she stabbed Marlo to death. Desperate to bring



Art by Carlos Pacheco



Supreme Intelligence once more helped him access the Destiny Force, this time in order to help the entity regain its corporeal form, but the power left Rick once the Supreme Intelligence was done with him.

When the Hulk was transformed into War, a horseman of Apocalypse, Rick journeyed to the scene of the Hulk's vicious battle against the Absorbing Man and Juggernaut in Cairo, Egypt. While trying to reason with the Hulk, Rick was instead struck by him, and slammed into a brick wall. Rick's spine was damaged, leaving him crippled. Banner subsequently tried to aid Rick's recovery, enlisting Reed Richards and Tony Stark to construct a suit that would help him to regain movement. The Supreme Intelligence once again manipulated Jones as the entity sought Rick's use of the Destiny Force to aid Kang the Conqueror against the Time-Keepers. This time, Rick used the Destiny Force to summon forth a team of Avengers from different points in time, among them a future incarnation of Genis-Vell. Rick also healed his damaged spine via the Destiny Force. Jones all but sacrificed himself in destroying the Time-Keepers' Chrono-Cannon before it could be used to destroy his timeline, but the future Genis-Vell saved him by merging with him. When Rick returned to his own time, he found that he had a new pair of Nega-Bands, and that he was now bonded to the present-day Genis-Vell, just as he had once been to Mar-Vell.

Rick and Genis were forced into a partnership neither truly desired, and Rick's experience with the prior Captain Marvel frequently made him more knowledgeable than Genis. The duo discovered that, unlike Rick's link with Mar-Vell, they would exchange places via the Microverse, rather than the Negative Zone. When it was finally learned that Marlo's body had been playing host to Death, Rick and Genis helped defend her against the extraterrestrial death god Walker. Walker destroyed Rick's left arm and aged him prematurely by several decades, causing him to mirror his older self seen during the Destiny War. Rick grew despondent at his fate, but finally regained his youth and missing arm thanks to the Supreme Intelligence. During another time travel excursion, Rick encountered and bested Thanatos, an alternate version of himself from Reality-9309. Genis ultimately proved unable to master his ability of cosmic awareness and went insane. Rick did his best to try and contain Genis, and even learned how to injure him psychically before Genis was finally cured of his illness. Soon afterward, Rick and Genis were separated from each other by the cosmic entity Eulogy.

her back, Rick finally accepted the aid of the Leader, who revived her using his "Deus ex Machina" (and the unseen efforts of the cosmic entity Death). Shortly thereafter, Rick encountered Janis, his time-traveling great-granddaughter of the alternate future of Reality-9200's Dystopia.

Rick and Marlo finally married at a ceremony attended by beings from across the universe (invited by the mischievous Impossible Man). Eventually separated again from the Hulk by the tumult of his life, Rick and Marlo accepted an offer to co-host a late night talk show for New World Entertainment, "Keeping Up with the Joneses." During the show's brief tenure, Rick encountered Genis-Vell, the young son of Mar-Vell, whom Rick considered to be a disgrace to his father's good name. When many of Earth's heroes vanished after battling Onslaught, Rick found himself wishing to become a super hero again, and the

Having earned a huge amount of money from investments he made with his book royalties, Rick donated most of his funds to the Excelsior Support Group, an L.A.-based gathering of young former super heroes seeking to overcome their addiction to crime fighting. Rick also donated a sophisticated flight vessel called the Excel to the group, who are now known as the Loners. With the Hulk's recent return to Earth and open declaration of war, Rick journeyed to New York in the hopes of reasoning with him. Rick was deputized by SHIELD agent Gabe Jones to assist civilians in the area, and charged with the mission of attempting to reach out to Banner through the Hulk.



Art by Steve Gieger

HEIGHT: 5'9"
EYES: Brown

WEIGHT: 165 lbs.
HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Rick Jones is an accomplished gymnast and hand-to-hand combatant with skill in judo and karate, having been trained by Captain America. He is also a skilled songwriter, singer, guitarist and harmonica player.

Under special circumstances, Rick has been able to tap into the Destiny Force, a mysterious and near-infinite power source inherent in all of humanity. Rick has used this ability to materialize figures from his imagination and from other time eras, to paralyze thousands of Kree and Skrull warriors simultaneously, to overwhelm an Atlantean army, to heal his own broken body, to amplify his physical abilities and to levitate. The limits of the Destiny Force's uses, if any, have not been revealed.

While bonded to each Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell and later Genis-Vell), Rick wore a pair of Nega-Bands on his wrists. By striking the bands together, Rick could exchange places with Captain Marvel (between the Negative Zone while partnered with Mar-Vell, the Microverse while partnered with Genis). Rick was able to release minor jolts of energy from the bands. Through the bands, he possessed a telepathic link to Captain Marvel. At one point he trained himself to usurp control of Genis' body, and to afflict him with psychic pain.

During his brief tenure as the Hulk, Rick would transform into a gamma-powered monster at nightfall. In this form he possessed superhuman strength and endurance, and could leap tremendous distances with his legs. He also suffered from a decrease in intellect, similar to many of Banner's incarnations as the Hulk.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

KNOWN MEMBERS: K'rel

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Cygnet VII

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk Annual #12 (1983)

TRAITS: The current Proselytes are green-skinned humanoids, while the former Proselytes have red skin. Beyond this, they seem similar to Terrans in physiology. The governing body of the previous Proselytes was comprised of three men, called the Holy Hierarchy. Their soldiers were referred to as Holy Huntsmen, and both were alternately called Prophet-Priests. The religious symbol for the red-skinned Proselytes was a five-pronged shape, while the green-skinned race claims an inverted triangle with three semi-circular extensions emanating from behind it as their symbol. Both symbols have been utilized on staffs that fire destructive bursts of energy.

The Proselytes are capable of interstellar travel, via spacecrafts equipped to travel through hyperspace. Their main form of space travel is the Cathedral Ship, a massive craft that also serves as their church. The Cathedral Ship is equipped with tractor beams and an "educator," a device that can impart massive amounts of information to a being within hours, including history and language. The Proselytes also possess the means to travel through space via irregular gamma rays. By this method, a Proselyte can ride a gamma ray without any protection from the elements of space.

HEIGHT: 5'6" (average)

WEIGHT: 150 lbs. (average)

EYES: Two (color varies)

SKIN: (Red Proselytes) red; (Green Proselytes) green

HISTORY: On the planet Cygnet VII, untold light years from Earth, two humanoid races distinguished only by the color of their skin (red and green) vied for supremacy. The Reds eventually won the holy war and became the dominating race, dubbing themselves the Proselytes. Over time, the Proselytes' religious fanaticism led to the persecution of the Greens as lesser beings, subjugating them to imprisonment or worse. The Greens, who secretly followed their own religion, were foretold of the day when a champion would arrive to liberate them. K'rel, priestess of the Greens, sought to find that champion and escaped Cygnet VII by riding gamma rays through space to Earth.



Dr. Bruce Banner witnessed her arrival, but before he could reach her, the Holy Huntsmen — ruling guard of the Proselytes — arrived in their Cathedral Ship to recover her. Banner transformed into the Hulk (who then possessed Banner's intellect) and attacked the Proselytes. The brief battle ended when the aliens captured both Hulk and K'rel in a tractor beam and departed for Cygnet VII. Along the way, the Hulk was

subjected to an "educator" device that taught him the planet's history and language. When they arrived on Cygnet VII, the Hulk and K'rel were paraded before angry mobs and taken to the Holy Hierarchy. The Hulk tried to break from captivity, but was rendered unconscious by the Prophet-Priests. He and K'rel were taken to the Pit, an arena in which Proselytes gathered to watch the Greens fight and be killed by carnivorous beasts called Draggos. The Hulk easily defeated the Draggos and was led away before his actions could cause a disruption. While being tortured, he broke free again and led his fellow prisoners in storming the Holy Hierarchy's base. With the Proselyte rulers overthrown, the Greens took control of Cygnet VII and installed K'rel as their ruler. In return for his help, K'rel gave the Hulk a small spacecraft to return home in. Though he asked that K'rel's new government show the deposed Reds mercy before departing, the desire for vengeance against the former oppressors led K'rel to proclaim the Greens the new Proselytes. With the Hulk gone, these new Proselytes subjected their former masters to the same horrors they had once suffered.

As the Hulk traveled back to Earth, he witnessed all of this through his ship's "educator" device, which allowed him to see an extended span of Cygnet VII's time due to the nature of traveling through hyperspace. With no way to return to Cygnet VII, he wept over the tragedy of a violent vicious circle.



CLAY QUARTERMAIN

REAL NAME: Clay Quartermain
ALIASES: None known
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: SHIELD agent; former bodyguard, big game hunter, soldier, others
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Sleepy Gap, Kansas
KNOWN RELATIVES: Alan Quartermain (brother), June Quartermain (sister-in-law), Henrietta Quartermain (niece), Jinete Quartermain ("Jenny," niece)
GROUP AFFILIATION: SHIELD, SHIELD Hulkbusters; formerly SHIELD Howling Commandos, Hulkbusters (non-SHIELD)
EDUCATION: High school graduate, Air Force Academy, Level L-8 SHIELD training
FIRST APPEARANCE: Strange Tales #163 (1967)

HISTORY: A self-described danger-lover, Clay Quartermain spent his early adulthood seeking adventure wherever he could find it, whether as a decorated Air Force officer or a battle-ready bodyguard, mastering a wide variety of weapons. Recruited into SHIELD by Contessa Valentina de la Fontaine, with whom he attended espionage training, he quickly distinguished himself in action against AIM and Dr. Doom's Yellow Claw android, earning a place in Nick Fury's inner circle of favored agents. Ever-ready with a grin and a quip, Clay became noted for his optimism and enthusiasm in combat, traits not always shared or appreciated by some of his colleagues. He proved exceptional not only in field duties but in administration and agent training as well; he frequently worked with technological genius Sidney "Gaffer" Levine, a veteran of World War II's Skywolves.

Fury later assigned Clay to help Hulkbuster Base's General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross rescue Major Glenn Talbot from the Gremlin's

Siberian base Bitterfrost. Clay led the expedition to success while the Hulk battled the Gremlin's monstrous assistant Droog. Back in the US, Clay was appointed full-time SHIELD liaison to Hulkbuster Base, redubbed Gamma Base, where he joined Ross and the super-strong Doc Samson in endeavors to capture the Hulk himself; Clay developed tremendous respect for not only his new colleagues but also for the Hulk's alter ego Dr. Bruce Banner. During his months at Gamma Base, Clay and his associates clashed with the Bi-Beast, the Leader and other menaces; briefly returning to SHIELD Helicarrier duty, he was mentally controlled by the terrorist Viper during her brief SHIELD takeover. Following Viper's defeat by Spider-Man, Nick Fury and others, Clay's Gamma Base duty ended with reassignment, and Gamma Base itself closed shortly thereafter. For a time he was romantically involved with Jessica Jones, formerly the super hero Jewel.

Over a year after Clay left Gamma Base, Samson split Banner and a mindless Hulk into two separate beings, and Clay led a SHIELD unit to capture the Hulk, who wrought havoc when Samson misguidedly freed him. Soon after, Banner and the Hulk were re-merged, SHIELD formed a new Gamma Base, with Clay as supervisor. Again capturing the Hulk, now in a more intelligent gray-skinned form, Clay consulted SHIELD's ruling council, who ordered him to end the Hulk's threat by killing Banner. Unaware SHIELD had been infiltrated by the android Deltites, Clay nonetheless rebelled against the orders and, after learning of government stockpiles of gamma bombs, destroyed Gamma Base and accompanied Banner in searching for the bombs. Aided by his brother Alan, Clay traced the stockpile to Arizona, though he was unable to prevent the Leader from destroying nearby Middletown with one such bomb. Despite his unauthorized activities, Clay won public support for uncovering the stockpile and even considered a run for public office; however, his plans were interrupted when the Deltites placed him and most of SHIELD's other agents in suspended animation to be brainwashed as Hydra agents. They were replaced with android duplicates, but Clay's replacement duplicated his heroism as well, siding with SHIELD and overloading the Deltite base's power core, destroying the Deltites and himself, although SHIELD nevertheless disbanded shortly afterward.

Months later, the true Clay was revived, his brainwashing overcome, and he joined a reorganized SHIELD. His trademark enthusiasm undiminished, Clay nonetheless failed in several subsequent assignments, losing control of the Nemesis robots and failing to capture AIM's brainwashed super-soldier Protocide. He fared better in renewing his friendship with Jessica Jones, and for a time he led SHIELD's Howling Commandos, monstrous operatives based in the mysterious Area 13. Most recently, Clay, along with SHIELD sorcerer Crimson and Life Model Decoy agents Cheesecake and Beefcake, joined She-Hulk in the latest Hulkbusters incarnation, battling other monstrous superhumans.



HEIGHT: 6'1" **WEIGHT:** 198 lbs.
EYES: Blue **HAIR:** Blond

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Clay Quartermain is an exceptional athlete, hand-to-hand combatant and pilot. He is adept with most weapons, including SHIELD's advanced technology; for a time he wielded a specially constructed bola in battle.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

HISTORY: When outlaw boy genius Amadeus Cho crossed paths with the monstrous Hulk (Bruce Banner), he developed a bond of friendship with him. Later noticing Hulk's absence from the super hero civil war over the Superhuman Registration Act, Cho began to search for him. Amadeus followed the Hulk's path to one of Banner's hideouts, where he hacked into the computers of Reed Richards and discovered how the "Illuminati" group had exiled Hulk into outer space. Knowing the Hulk would return one day, Cho realized the Hulk would need friends after what had been done to him, and soon began seeking allies to help the Hulk finally obtain peace. Cho then hacked into the bank account of wealthy mutant philanthropist Warren Worthington III (aka the Angel) and stole \$1.2 billion to fund his mission and purchase the surrounding desert land where the Hulk was "born," planning to create a sanctuary for the Hulk.

Cho first attempted to recruit Banner's cousin She-Hulk by manipulating events to prove that she was on the wrong side, but despite her loyalty to Banner, she ultimately rejected his scheme because of her faith in the legal system. As Cho left, She-Hulk hinted that former members of the Champions might help, as that group owed the Hulk a debt. Later, while meeting with ex-Champions Angel and Hercules, Cho once again manipulated events to look like SHIELD was attacking him for having learned the Hulk's fate. After seeing SHIELD's seeming ruthlessness toward Cho, the two heroes were all too willing to join his cause. The trio then went to Atlantis in hopes of recruiting Hulk's longtime ally Namor the Sub-Mariner. Namor refused, claiming they were all insane to think the Hulk was anything but a monster; however, his cousin Namora decided to join in his place.

By now the Hulk had returned with his new alien allies the Warbound, declaring war on Earth in his quest for vengeance on the "Illuminati." As the Avengers and Fantastic Four engaged the Hulk's forces, Cho's group of rebels, now calling themselves the Renegades, traveled to Manhattan. As they arrived, they found refugees gathering in hopes of the Hulk being a savior who could solve the world's problems; however, the battle heavily damaged the city, and the Renegades soon found themselves saving the refugees. When Cho's group finally confronted the Hulk and the Warbound, the Renegades and the refugees were able to stop the Hulk's rampage — until the military, led by General Ross, attacked. Warbound and the Renegades worked together to save surrounding innocents, and the battle ended with General Ross the Hulk's captive. Ross quickly pushed a remote trigger to drop a bomb, causing Hulk to use his body to shield everyone. Following the explosion, whatever chance the Renegades had of dissuading the Hulk from further violence was gone.

After the military failed to stop the Hulk, SHIELD Commander Gabe Jones deputized the Renegades instead of arresting them in order to stop the Hulk. Upon realizing the Hulk was building a battle arena, Jones sent the Renegades into action along with SHIELD agent Scorpion (Carmilla Black). Despite the vast destruction caused by the Hulk, Cho still had faith in the Hulk's basic goodness, though the monster's brutal treatment of the Avengers and Fantastic Four shook the boy's resolve somewhat. Even after learning the Hulk planned to force the heroes to kill each other, Cho still believed the Hulk was not a murderer. When the Scorpion made her presence known, the Hulk attacked, leading to a battle between the Renegades and the Hulk. Cho deliberately pushed the Hulk both mentally and emotionally by telling him it was his fault that everyone he ever loved had died, goading him until it seemed like the Hulk would destroy them all in a fit of rage; however, the Hulk departed with the Warbound instead. At that point, Cho had convinced his teammates and himself that the Hulk was not a killer, but wondered if the Hulk knew it for himself.

MEMBERS: Angel (Warren Kenneth Worthington III), Amadeus Cho (aka Mastermind Excello), Hercules (Heracles), Namora (Aquaria Neptunia), Scorpion (Carmilla Black)

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Unrevealed

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #107 (2007)



ANGEL
(Warren Worthington III)
X-Men #1 (1963)



MASTERMIND EXCELLO
(Amadeus Cho)
Amazing Fantasy #15 (2006)



HERCULES
(Heracles)
Journey Into Mystery Annual #1 (1965)



NAMORA
(Aquaria Neptunia)
Marvel Mystery Comics #82 (1947)



SCORPION
(Carmilla Black)
Amazing Fantasy #7 (2005)



ROCK AND REDEEMER

REAL NAME: Samuel John LaRoquette

ALIASES: The Rock; "Rocky"

IDENTITY: Publicly known

OCCUPATION: Former servant of the Leader, college professor, employee of Argo Industries, civilian adviser to SHIELD

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed

KNOWN RELATIVES: None

GROUP AFFILIATION: Riot Squad; formerly Hulkbusters, Assembly of Evil

EDUCATION: College education

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Samuel LaRoquette) Incredible Hulk #317 (1986); (Rock) Incredible Hulk #343 (1988)

HISTORY: Samuel LaRoquette was an avid explorer and survival expert with a bad temper. He had a passion for conquering his environment, and traveled to nearly every harsh climate and terrain on earth, earning the nickname of "The Rock" in the process. He became a college professor and detailed his exploits to his students, eventually falling in love with a student named Carolyn Parmenter. When the dean of students discovered LaRoquette's affair, he reprimanded LaRoquette who lost his temper and punched the dean unconscious, ending Samuel's academic career. LaRoquette was then contracted to lead expeditions for Argo Industries. After two of his party died during an unexpected earthquake, LaRoquette's superiors blamed him. He again lost his temper and punched his boss, leaving him unemployed once more.

REAL NAME: Craig Saunders Jr.

ALIASES: None

IDENTITY: Publicly known

OCCUPATION: Former servant of the Leader, US Army demolitions expert, civilian adviser to SHIELD

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed

KNOWN RELATIVES: None

GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Hulkbusters

EDUCATION: Unrevealed

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Craig Saunders) Incredible Hulk #317 (1986); (Redeemer) Incredible Hulk #343 (1988)

Craig Saunders was a successful Army demolitions expert until he encountered a terrorist smuggling a bomb through an airport. Saunders shot the terrorist, but seeing that he had no time to defuse the bomb, Saunders threw it down the hall, where it killed a mother and child. Saunders was dishonorably discharged from the military.

Bruce Banner had recently been separated from his monstrous alter ego the Hulk, and began assembling a team of Hulkbusters to capture or destroy him. Unable to find other employment, LaRoquette and Saunders joined this new team, with LaRoquette acting as leader. Also on the team were biological expert Armand Martel, geologist Hideko Takata and LaRoquette's old student and lover, Carolyn Parmenter. In an early training exercise, the Hulkbusters attacked and were defeated by gamma mutate Doc Samson, resulting in Carolyn's accidental death. LaRoquette blamed Samson for this tragedy, and his guilt and grief drove him to the point of obsession in seeking revenge on both Samson and the Hulk. During their time with the Hulkbusters, LaRoquette and Saunders repeatedly attempted to apprehend the rampaging Hulk, and were easily defeated each time, their advanced weapons proving no match for the Hulk's incredible strength.

LaRoquette and Saunders remained with the Hulkbusters after Bruce Banner had been remerged with the Hulk, and they hunted both the original Hulk and the newly gamma-irradiated Rick Jones version of the Hulk. LaRoquette and Saunders were both injured in a battle with the Jones Hulk, with LaRoquette suffering a broken leg and Saunders sustaining a concussion. Following the injury, LaRoquette became truly obsessed with killing the Hulk, even if it meant murdering a defenseless Bruce Banner. Long after the other Hulkbusters quit, LaRoquette and Saunders stayed on board with SHIELD as "civilian advisers" and kept trying to destroy the Hulk. Eventually, after the corrupt actions of SHIELD had come to light following the destruction of Gamma Base, SHIELD ousted LaRoquette and Saunders. Evil genius and longtime Hulk foe the Leader captured both men and forced them to confront their past mistakes and inner demons, mentally manipulating and brainwashing them until they became his loyal followers. Leader then placed LaRoquette in a shape-shifting rock-like exoskeleton and Saunders in a powerful suit of high-tech armor, empowering them as his servants, Rock and Redeemer.

On their first mission for the Leader, Rock and Redeemer were ordered to steal a gamma bomb from an Army base where the government was producing and storing thousands of them. The Leader intended to detonate the bomb in a heavily populated area, knowing that most within the bomb's range would be killed, but the few survivors would be transformed into super-powered beings, to serve as the first in the Leader's new race. Rock and Redeemer easily stole the bomb, causing massive military casualties in the process. Soon after, the villainous pair was sent to prevent the Hulk from disarming the bomb they had stolen. In the ensuing battle, the Hulk killed Redeemer by throwing him into spikes formed by Rock, and defeated Rock by tearing the arm off of his exoskeleton. Despite their defeat, Rock



Art by Todd McFarlane with John Byrne (inset)

and Redeemer's mission was still a success: the bomb did indeed go off as their master intended, killing almost the entire population of Middletown, Arizona, approximately 5,000 people, while transforming and empowering 5 survivors. Rock escaped the bomb's detonation, teleported away by the Leader. The Leader later briefly loaned out Rock to serve in the Jester's Assembly of Evil during the so-called "Acts of Vengeance" conspiracy, but the vigilantes Cloak and Dagger helped the Avengers defeat the Assembly.

The Leader rebuilt Redeemer's armor and outfitted the Hulk's recently resurrected and brainwashed father-in-law, General "Thunderbolt" Ross, as the new Redeemer; however, only the Leader was aware of the new Redeemer's identity. Teaming with the transformed survivors of Middletown, Rock and Redeemer served the Leader as the Riot Squad. The next time the Hulk met Rock and Redeemer, he had been injected with a lethal poison by the villain Madman and had less than 24 hours to live. Wishing to use the Hulk as a pawn against Madman, the Leader transported the Hulk to his base to speak with him.



Unwilling to talk with the Leader, Hulk attacked, and Rock and Redeemer were called to their master's defense. The Hulk was curious as to the identity of Redeemer, whom he distinctly remembered killing, but never expected that it was his own father-in-law. Rock and Redeemer put up a good fight against the weakened Hulk, but were eventually incapacitated when the Hulk toppled a pair of buildings onto them. Before long, Rock and Redeemer renewed their attack with an assist from the rest of the Riot Squad. The Leader's minions began to get the better of the poisoned Hulk until the Leader, still intending to use the Hulk against Madman, ordered them to cease their attack.

Later, when the Leader was at war with the terrorist organization Hydra, he coveted the allegiance and vast resources of the organization called the Pantheon, of which the Hulk was a member. Alongside the U-Foes and the rest of the Riot Squad, Rock and Redeemer participated in the Leader's assault on the Mount, the Pantheon's headquarters. They fought the Hulk and his Pantheon allies in a monumental battle, keeping them busy while the Leader snuck away to negotiate with the Pantheon's leader, Agamemnon. Rock impaled Hulk through the chest from behind during the fight, but was then pushed back by the Pantheon member Ulysses. After a long, vicious fight, the Hulk and his allies had all but defeated the villains when the Leader and Agamemnon reached an agreement and called for their respective soldiers to end the conflict. Rock and Redeemer teleported away with the Leader and his allies, much to the Hulk's disbelief and anger.

The Leader later appeared to Hulk's friend Rick Jones — with whom he shared a mental link — and offered to help resurrect Rick's deceased girlfriend Marlo Chandler, intending to later use Jones against the Hulk. To prove that he could resurrect the dead, the Leader showed Rick Jones that Redeemer was actually General Ross, who had been dead for some time.

During their final mission for the Leader, Rock and Redeemer helped defend the Leader's Antarctic base, Freehold, from an invasion by Hydra. During the attack, the Hulk arrived to stop the Leader and his minions once and for all; but Rick Jones, who the Leader was aiding, talked Hulk into briefly helping Rock and Redeemer defend the Leader's base. Quickly tiring of being used, the Hulk renewed his attack on the Leader. Seeing his master in peril, Redeemer sprang to the Leader's defense, shooting at the Hulk. The Hulk used the Leader as a human shield against Redeemer's bullets, knocked off

Redeemer's helmet and then killed Redeemer, mistakenly believing him to be another trick by the Leader, and not the true General Ross.

Rock remained at the Freehold for months, even after it was taken over by the alien Troyjans. While at the Freehold, Rock eventually met the once again resurrected General Ross. After being called LaRoquette for the first time in a long time by Ross, Rock called Ross "Redeemer" and thereby unintentionally unlocked Ross' memories of his time as Redeemer.



HEIGHT: (Rock) Variable; (LaRoquette) 6'3"
WEIGHT: (Rock) Variable; (LaRoquette) 245 lbs.
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: LaRoquette is a survival expert with experience in many harsh climates and terrains. As a Hulkbuster, LaRoquette had access to advanced technology such as battlesuits, planes and large land vehicles outfitted with weapons powerful enough to threaten the Hulk. As Rock, LaRoquette is permanently bonded to a shape-shifting, rock-like exoskeleton that responds to his thoughts. The exoskeleton grants him immense durability, superhuman strength (Class 25) and flight. Rock can shape the exoskeleton into various forms, including a spiked form and a giant human shape over 30 feet tall. Because Rock is mentally linked to his exoskeleton, any harm done to it will also be felt by Rock.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

HEIGHT: (Redeemer) 6'3"; (Saunders) 5'7"
WEIGHT: (Redeemer) 450 lbs.; (Saunders) 155 lbs.
EYES: Blue
HAIR: White

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Craig Saunders Jr. was a distinguished demolitions expert. As a Hulkbuster, Saunders had access to advanced technology such as battlesuits, planes and large land vehicles outfitted with weapons powerful enough to threaten the Hulk. As Redeemer he wore an armored mechanical battlesuit that granted him enhanced human strength and durability. He wielded a variety of powerful guns, rocket launchers and energy cannons.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

SHE-HULK

REAL NAME: Jennifer Walters

ALIASES: Jennifer Jameson, Jennifer Smith, Jade Giantess, Nurse Jennifer Emerald, Glamazonia, "Shulkie"

IDENTITY: Publicly known

OCCUPATION: Attorney, adventurer; former SHIELD agent, actress, mine slave

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Los Angeles, California

KNOWN RELATIVES: William Morris Walters (father), Elaine Ann Banner Walters (mother, deceased), Robert Bruce Banner (Hulk, cousin), Elizabeth "Betty" Ross Talbot Banner (cousin-in-law), Rebecca Banner (aunt, deceased), Brian Banner (uncle, deceased), Susan Elizabeth Banner (formerly Susan Drake; aunt, presumed deceased), Cassandra Walters Pike (Brain, aunt), David Pike (Brawn, cousin), John Jameson (husband, marriage annulled); for extended family see Hulk

GROUP AFFILIATION: Initiative; formerly Magistrati, Hulkbusters, SHIELD, Green Cross, Avengers, Defenders (associate), Heroes for Hire, Queen's Vengeance, Fantastic Force, Hulkbusters (Counter-Earth), Brides of Set, Fantastic Four

EDUCATION: Law degree from UCLA

FIRST APPEARANCE: Savage She-Hulk #1 (1980)



HISTORY: The daughter of Los Angeles police sheriff Morris Walters, Jennifer Walters developed her own strong sense of right from his example. She and her best friend Jill Stevens regularly babysat Jen's next door neighbor, Daniel "Zapper" Ridge, who soon developed a lasting crush on her. Jen spent her summers in Charlestown, Ohio with her maternal cousin, and despite a five year age gap they became as close as siblings. They often spent long evenings reading to one another in the local library; however, they lost touch after Bruce switched degrees to nuclear physics. Though her father hoped she might follow him into law enforcement, Jen wanted to be a dancer. En route to one of Jen's dance recitals, her mother Elaine's car collided head on with another vehicle, killing her; officially the crash was blamed on the other driver's drunkenness, but Morris Walters eventually learned that it had been an attempt on his life arranged by local mob boss Nick Trask. After Elaine's death, both Jen and her father retreated into obsessions with law and justice; Morris poured himself into his work, and Jen into law studies, driving herself to reach the top. Attending Harvard, Jen neither mingled nor partied, graduating summa cum laude. She had her pick of top law firms to join, but she chose to go into private practice; though an excellent lawyer, she often lost cases to cocky Assistant District Attorney Joachim "Buck" Bukowski.

Unknown to Jen, her cousin Bruce had become the monstrous Hulk. Attempting to make contact, Bruce found Jen with a ruptured appendix, and while rushing her to a hospital as the Hulk, was attacked by the Champions. The delay nearly cost Jen her life, and barely conscious during the incident, she did not learn till much later who had saved her life. When Nick Trask framed rival mobster Lou Monkton for murder, Jen took up Monkton's defense. Hoping to shake up Trask, Jen planted a rumor that she had evidence implicating Trask as the killer, shortly before her fugitive cousin Bruce approached her. Jen had just driven him back to her house when Trask's men shot her. Aware Jen had lost too much blood, Bruce gave her an emergency transfusion, then fled moments after the authorities arrived. Recovering in the hospital, Jen hated how vulnerable she felt, unaware of the mutagenic changes her cousin's irradiated blood were making to her body; when Trask's thugs tried to finish her off, adrenaline triggered Jen's transformation into a larger, green-skinned form, dubbed a "She-Hulk" by one of her attackers. Empowered psychologically as well as physically, Jen vowed to herself that whatever Jennifer Walters couldn't handle, the She-Hulk would.

Trying again to eliminate Jen, Trask's men rigged her car to crash; unfortunately, her friend Jill died in her place, and witness Buck Bukowski erroneously thought the She-Hulk had killed her. Jen let the public, her father included, believe she had died, to deter further attempts. Trask blackened She-Hulk's name further, using a murderous green robot, before he finally seemingly died while attacking the She-Hulk with a giant Silver Serpent robot. With the public now aware Jen was alive, the She-Hulk produced the green robot's remains to clear her name for those attacks; however, she continued to be blamed for Jill's death. Having shared her secret with Zapper, now a med student, Jen asked him to analyze a blood sample, worried that she was changing at the slightest provocation and that She-Hulk's increasingly strong personality might engulf her own. Zapper's friend, Ralphie Hutchins, directed Zapper to the former "Living Vampire" Dr. Michael Morbius, working on campus under police guard. He identified a fatal degenerative disease in Jen's blood and provided a serum, which not only cured the condition, but also gave her control over her changes. Jen, in turn, represented Morbius in court, getting multiple



Art by Mike Vosburg

Art by Paul Pelletier with Juan Bobillo (inset)

murder charges reduced to manslaughter, though her father angrily disowned her for doing so. Soon after She-Hulk met Stargod (John Jameson), indirectly assisting in saving the dying Other-Realm he protected. Jen found she increasingly enjoyed being She-Hulk, preferring battles with foes such as Ultima, Man-Elephant, the Grappler and Man-Killer over dealing with the rival romantic interests of Zapper and new beau Richard Rory, or the growing estrangement from her father. Meanwhile, Buck finally learned the truth about Jill's death and cleared the She-Hulk's name.

Art by Al Milgrom



Ralphie showed the blood sample Zapper had given him to an ambitious geneticist, "Doc," who duped Zapper into luring She-Hulk into a trap, hoping to use her blood to create a super-villain army; when she broke free, Doc turned Ralphie into a monster, "Brute," to battle her. After escaping, She-Hulk told Zapper his betrayal was the last straw, announced she would never change back to Jen, and departed Los Angeles. Transforming Ralphie into a series of super-villains — Seeker, Radius, Torque and Earth-Lord — Doc used him both to hound the She-Hulk and, through his front man Shade, to muscle in on the LA underworld, but She-Hulk stopped him with the assistance of

her penitent friends and father. Having reconciled with those closest to her, She-Hulk set out on a road trip, encountering the hitchhiking Thing (Ben Grimm) and stopping the Negator from causing a meltdown at the Diablo Nuclear Plant.

Eventually reaching New York, she accepted the Wasp's invitation to join the Avengers. She swiftly proved her worth in battles against the Masters of Evil, the Fomor, AIM and T'rannikus' troll army; however, when the Champion of the Universe selected Earth's strongest inhabitants to fight him, she was disappointed that the chauvinistic alien left her off the list. She-Hulk enjoyed her new team's camaraderie, soon becoming close to both the Wasp and Scarlet Witch (Wanda Maximoff), though her relationship with Hawkeye (Clint Barton) was more antagonistic. Meanwhile, her cousin Bruce gained control of his Hulk form, and much to She-Hulk's delight, was given a presidential pardon for his past crimes. When the Avengers aided Hulk against his old foe, the Leader, the cousins had their first chance to talk properly since Jen's transformation. Bruce apologized for turning her into a monster like him, but she told him she viewed the change as a gift, turning her from a victim into someone with the power to do good. Bruce would later admit that he came to see the She-Hulk as one of his few redeeming features, a case where he had not only saved a loved one's life, but had helped to create a hero. During a rematch with the Masters of Evil, the Radioactive Man turned She-Hulk back into Jen with gamma rays; she was initially scared and unable to turn back, but Hawkeye deliberately taunted her until he provoked the transformation, his actions proving the start of a lasting friendship. Later the She-Hulk was kidnapped alongside other heroes by the powerful Beyonder, who transported them to "Battleworld" to fight an assemblage of their foes. When the Wrecking Crew's Bulldozer seemingly slew the Wasp, She-Hulk single-handedly invaded the villains' base, nearly taking down the entire Wrecking Crew before newly created super-villain Titania ("Skeeter" MacPherran) joined in, turning the tide. The two women briefly battled one-on-one, but the assembled villains came to Titania's rescue when She-Hulk got the upper hand. Humiliated, Titania would later become one of She-Hulk's most persistent foes. After the heroes finally won the day and were preparing to return home, the Thing told She-Hulk

he intended to stay behind for a while and asked her to take his place in the Fantastic Four.

Feeling like an intruder in the close-knit team at first, She-Hulk soon became part of their family. During a battle with the extraterrestrial Terminus, she met the FF's old ally Wyatt Wingfoot, who became her boyfriend. A paparazzo working for sleaze magazine "The Naked Truth" photographed She-Hulk sunbathing on the FF's roof, using the wind from his helicopter to expose her temporarily; Jen was unable to prevent the pictures seeing print, but the printers, unaware the photos were meant to be green, color corrected them, making Jen unrecognizable. When the Thing finally returned from Battleworld, She-Hulk figured her time with the Four was ending, realizing that what had started as a substituting job had grown into something special; however, Ben decided not to rejoin the team. When the Fantastic Four pursued the evil Psycho-Man into the Microverse, he captured them and imprisoned the She-Hulk in the mines of Nuvidia, artificially conditioned to be too terrified to use her strength against the warders; however, the fugitive Princess Pearla helped her break his brainwashing.

Elements in the US government, worried the She-Hulk might lose control like her cousin had, ordered elite intelligence agency SHIELD to apprehend her for analysis, "Operation Green Genes." They teleported She-Hulk, Wyatt and various passersby from a New York street to the SHIELD Helicarrier, where the sadistic Agent Dooley oversaw a torturous examination; however, one of the other abductees was the host of a malevolent cockroach collective, which fed off radiation. It picked Dooley as its new host and crashed the carrier, hoping to send its power core into meltdown; She-Hulk destroyed the cockroaches and stopped the meltdown, but was exposed to massive levels of radiation. Unable to change back to Jen afterwards, She-Hulk had Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richards) examine her. Finding no physical cause, he secretly brought in psychologist Doc Samson, who concluded that She-Hulk simply didn't want to become Jen again; Reed lied to her and told her the radiation had put a genetic lock on her, an excuse she happily accepted.

The next few months saw the Fantastic Four battle the Skrulls, Dr. Doom (Victor von Doom), the Beyonder, Blastaar and Annihilus. Learning that her cousin Bruce had been separated from the Hulk, She-Hulk rushed to his hospital bed, and later helped subdue the now mindless Hulk so he and Bruce could be re-merged to save Bruce's life. She-Hulk also went hunting for the Thing, who had gone missing in California, and clashed with his girlfriend Ms. Marvel (Sharon Ventura), but failed to locate him. Her teammates proved more successful, and the Thing rejoined the Fantastic Four. Feeling at loose ends, she returned to the Avengers in time to battle the Olympian gods, whose ruler Zeus unfairly blamed the Avengers for severe injuries his son Hercules had suffered while serving with them. Alongside Thor, She-Hulk personally fought the king of the gods until Hercules recovered sufficiently to make Zeus realize he had acted rashly. After attending the wedding of Johnny Storm and Alicia Masters (secretly the Skrull



Art by John Byrne

Lyja), She-Hulk was drawn into the Collector's contest with Death for the life of the Grandmaster, and was killed by Drax the Destroyer, temporarily joining the Legion of the Unliving before being restored to life. When the Super-Adaptoid's robotic Heavy Metal team attacked the Avengers, She-Hulk battled the Mad Thinker's Awesome Android, later to become an important part of her life. After being mentally manipulated by Dr. Druid and Nebula (actually the Terminatrix), She-Hulk quit the team, needing time to be alone. She returned to the courtroom, challenging the constitutionality of the recently enacted Mutant Registration Act on behalf of young mutant Theresa Handel.



She-Hulk went to work for District Attorney Blake Towers, soon learning the job had been partially arranged by his secretary Louise "Weezy" Mason, formerly the World War II heroine Blonde Phantom. She continued to juggle her law career with her heroic one, battling foes such as the Circus of Crime, the Headmen and Dr. Bong. She fought alongside Razorback against Xemnu the Titan, who sought to make her his mate; worked with Nick St. Christopher (Santa Claus) to uncover evidence against a maniacal serial killer; and protected image consultant Lexington Loopner against Pseudo-Man. Having drifted apart after she left the Fantastic Four, She-Hulk looked up Wyatt and renewed their relationship, even briefly getting engaged, but they soon broke it off. Rejoining the Avengers, She-Hulk was among the heroines briefly mesmerized into serving as the "Brides of Set" during Ghaur's failed plot to restore the elder god Set to Earth; she was also among the Avengers who helped sway public opinion against a proposed Super-Powers Registration Act. She battled her cousin David Pike, now the super-villain Brawn, and discovered that Warlord Krang's Major Motion Pictures was making an unauthorized She-Hulk movie; intended to flop so Krang could bilk his investors, it proved a surprise hit, staying sold-out for over 10 weeks. Aided by Howard the Duck, the Critic and the Terror, She-Hulk next prevented Dr. Angst's Band of the Bland from crushing together several realities to create the mundane Insipiverse. As an Avengers member, she helped thwart a breakout from the Vault super prison and battled Terminus, the Outlaws, Stellaris, Ngh the Unspeakable and the Tetrarchs of Entropy. Alongside Nosferata, she took down Jack Serious and the Dorkham Asylum inmates, and the Phantom Blonde (Weezy's daughter Wanda Mason) helped her stop Jasper Keaton's American Purity Party.

After defeating Adrenazon, Spragg the Living Hill, the Mole Man and Black Talon's X-Humed, during which last conflict she inadvertently gained the zombie manservant Garth, She-Hulk renewed her relationship with Wyatt and spent Christmas with her father, temporarily becoming Jen again thanks to Nick St. Christopher's gift. Wyatt helped her battle the Living Eraser from Dimension Z and Mahkizmo before She-Hulk and Weezy ventured into space to battle Spragg and Xemnu again, rescuing Razorback, Tayrn O'Connell and Rocket Raccoon from the D'Bari Vuk

and the Xartans/Carbon Copy Men. Captured during this last escapade, She-Hulk had an Ovoid in an adjacent cell give her the power to switch minds; intending to swap with Weezy so she could update her other allies, She-Hulk instead found the gamma radiation in her blood interfered with the process, so they switched physiques instead. The pair returned to Earth, where Weezy enjoyed a brief stint as the new She-Hulk before normality was restored.

The robot War Zone attacked She-Hulk, introducing a toxin into her bloodstream to gradually remove her powers. She sought the help of Zapper, now a brilliant hematologist, unaware that War Zone had been sent by Zapper's father-in-law, Hector DeVasquez, who believed killing her would remove his daughter's competition for Zapper's affections. Arriving in LA, She-Hulk battled the Rumbler, who killed her; discovering the gamma rays were preventing her brain's post-mortem decay, Zapper revived She-Hulk with an infusion of gamma rays, briefly turning her into a more muscular, "savage" form. Attacked again by War Zone and DeVasquez, the latter's gamma tank overloaded She-Hulk, causing her to revert to Jen; the Hulk voluntarily provided another transfusion to restore her powers. She later fought alongside her cousin against the Bi-Beast, battled Electro and the Scarlet Beetle, and broke up with Wyatt.

Diablo mind-controlled She-Hulk into stealing the Guardsman of Chthon statue, but Fantastic Force freed her and she joined the team for a while. After helping Doc Samson hunt the gamma-powered serial killer Patchwork, who briefly turned her into Jen again, she fought Onslaught alongside the Avengers, the Fantastic Four and other heroes. When most of the active Avengers seemingly died in that battle, She-Hulk was offered a full-time slot but declined, concentrating on her legal work. Lured away from Tower's office to become a private partner in Jeryn Hogarth's practice, Jennifer became the attorney for Heroes for Hire, aiding them against the Master's Strike Force One, Exodus' Acolytes and the Man-Beast, and enjoying a short romance with Luke Cage. The heroes Onslaught had "killed" were saved by Franklin Richards' immense psychic powers and transported to his Counter-Earth, reborn, initially without powers or memories of their past lives, alongside counterparts of friends and family back home. The displaced heroes eventually returned home, accompanied by the Counter-Earth She-Hulk whom they erroneously believed was the original. When they entered their home reality, the second She-Hulk was absorbed into her counterpart. Rejoining the shorthanded Avengers, She-Hulk battled Template, Kulan Gath and Count Nefaria before joining the Human Torch's temporary Fantastic Four (with Ant-Man and Namorita) to battle the Gideon Trust and the Awesome Android. After the Hulk and other senior members of the Defenders were driven insane and became the tyrannical Order, Nighthawk assembled their female counterparts, including the She-Hulk, to defeat them and restore them to normal. She also returned to her old job as one of Tower's prosecutors.

When the Avengers investigated the bio-weapon Bloodwash's release near Mount Rushmore, She-Hulk was exposed to the virus. Her teammate Jack of Hearts tried to evacuate her, but his energy powers unintentionally transformed her into a more savage She-Hulk, who bounded off in search of Bruce. Her transformations were now triggered by fear, and she was brutish and destructive as She-Hulk. Jen headed to Bone, Idaho, where the Hulk had recently been sighted, but the Avengers caught up with her and she changed, demolishing much of the town in her rampage; she was eventually subdued with the Hulk's help, and Jack of Hearts corrected the gamma radiation balance within her; however, She-Hulk's guilt over Bone saw her changing unintentionally back to Jen during her sleep and partying hard during the day. Her hedonistic lifestyle ultimately forced the Avengers to evict her from their mansion, and Blake Tower to fire her.



Prestigious law firm Goodman, Lieber, Kurtzberg and Holliway hired her to work in their Superhuman Law Section, though Holden Holliway insisted he wanted Jennifer Walters, not the She-Hulk. Feeling a target since her dual identity was public knowledge, she received a protective spell from the Scarlet Witch so that no one who wished the She-Hulk harm could see her as Jen. She moved into the Excelsior Apartments alongside other GLK&H employees, including Awesome Andy (the reformed Awesome Android) and fellow lawyer Augustus "Pug" Pugliese, who developed a massive crush on her; however, GLK&H's top lawyer Mallory Book was less welcoming, seeing her as a rival rather than colleague. While suing J. Jonah Jameson for years of libeling Spider-Man, Jen renewed her friendship with his son John, and they began dating, much to Pug's annoyance. After Holden's granddaughter, the super delinquent Southpaw, was arrested, he arranged for her to be released into a reluctant Jen's custody. When the Scarlet Witch went mad and attacked the Avengers, she transformed Jen into her savage persona, hospitalizing Captain Britain (Kelsey Leigh) and killing the Vision. Though aware she had been under another's control, Jen remained guilt-ridden over this.



She-Hulk was soon recruited into the cosmic Living Tribunal's Magistrati to administer universal law, silencing the Watcher Qyre at the behest of an extremely reclusive race he had observed, a ruling that angered Qyre's friend Zoma. Sent to Skardon to free it from the Champion's rule, She-Hulk fought him in the boxing ring, swiftly losing the first bout; she appealed the decision and trained as Jen for three months, building her strength and being taught to fight by Gamora. Transforming for the rematch, her improved strength as Jen was exponentially increased as She-Hulk; after forcing the Champion to remove his strength-enhancing Infinity Power Gem as a disallowed weapon, She-Hulk soundly beat him and made him swear never to wear the gem again. Returning home, she found it difficult to control her increased might, borrowing John Jameson's strength-controlling Jupiter Suit; however, the vengeful former Champion, directed by Zoma, gave his gem to Titania, who smashed up the Excelsior and GLK&H's Timely Plaza offices looking for her nemesis.

Titania easily knocked She-Hulk out, and she turned back into Jen, whom Titania couldn't see thanks to Wanda's protective spell. Stealing the gem from Titania, Jen used it to knock Titania out, but found herself unable to change back into the She-Hulk.

While Timely Plaza was being rebuilt, an incognito Jen helped rebuild Bone, while Doc Samson worked on a gamma charger to allow her to become the She-Hulk despite the mental blocks; Dr. Strange eventually restored her ability to transform at will by removing Wanda's protection spell. Returning to GLK&H, Jen worked on a time-travel murder case, but learned that jurors called from the past included her recently deceased friend Hawkeye. Jen attempted to slip him a note warning him of his demise, and was arrested by the Time Variance Authority (TVA). Threatened with complete removal from the timestream, and shown a probable future where something she had already done triggered the cosmos-devastating Reckoning War, Jen was given the lesser sentence of having another TVA prisoner, the Two-Gun Kid, remanded into her custody. Back on Earth, her client Starfox saw her arguing with John and tried to help by surreptitiously using his mind powers to send her head-over-heels in love with John.

In the wake of the Stamford disaster, where 612 innocents died during a superhuman battle, She-Hulk represented Speedball, the sole survivor, and came out in favor of the proposed Superhuman Registration Act (SHRA), perhaps changing her past stance in part because of her own recent transgressions; however, she also took on the Act's strongest proponent, Iron Man, challenging him on the stand during a trial to close down a hate site exposing the identities of former New Warriors. John Jameson proposed, and the couple immediately wed, but Pug revealed Starfox's action and the villainous Alistaire Smythe transformed John back into Stargod. With Starfox's influence removed, She-Hulk realized she didn't love John and she asked for an annulment. Drafted into SHIELD via the SHRA's small print, she joined agent Clay Quartermain's Hulkbusters in rounding up her missing cousin's old foes, and worked as a trainer for the new Initiative program; however, when she discovered that Iron Man had fired the Hulk into deep space, She-Hulk confronted him, only to be stripped of her powers by a nanite injection. Warning Iron Man that she could do more damage as a lawyer than as She-Hulk, she promised to destroy him. Outlaw boy genius Amadeus Cho ("Mastermind Excello") offered to restore her powers by blocking Stark's nanites if she helped him against Iron Man, but Jen declined, wanting to do things legally; however, with the Hulk's return at the head of an alien gladiator army, Jen used Cho's treatment to restore her powers, and when talking failed to work, fought her cousin, only to end up a prisoner. Following the Hulk's defeat, Jen was freed; having used up her supply of Cho's formula, she continues to fight Stark in the courts, and has obtained an injunction preventing him from using the nanite technology on anyone else until the case is heard.



HEIGHT: (Jen) 5'10"; (She-Hulk) 6'7", variable
WEIGHT: (Jen) 150 lbs.; (She-Hulk) 700 lbs., variable
EYES: Green **HAIR:** (Jen) Brown; (She-Hulk) green

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: She-Hulk possesses immense superhuman strength, now able to lift in excess of 100 tons; this has varied much higher during "savage" periods and immediately after battling the Champion. She possesses a high degree of imperviousness to injury and disease, regenerates from injuries, and is resistant to extreme temperature variations and radiation, although gamma rays can trigger unstable transformations. She can leap over 600 feet up or 1000 feet across. She can swap physiques with other humans using Ovoid mind techniques, and seems to have the ability to sense extradimensional viewers observing her, a power perhaps related to her cousin's ability to see astral forms; Jen tends to downplay this last trait, as speaking to an unseen audience tends to unsettle those around her. A spell formerly prevented those who intended She-Hulk harm from seeing Jen, but this has been recently removed. She is a highly skilled lawyer, a trained fighter and owns a modified, spaceworthy, flying 1959 Dodge.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

TRIBBITITES

KNOWN MEMBERS: Amphos, Bufo, Froja, Gridney, Grodrik, Helkooky, Toadius V, Torkon II, Torrak

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Tribbit (aka Toadworld), Ouin Star System, Milky Way Galaxy; formerly Kroke

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #2 (1962)

TRAITS: Tribbitites are a reptilian semi-humanoid extraterrestrial species, with a population of approximately 5 billion to 6 billion. Their scaly hides are resistant to many forms of minor injuries. They possess long, sticky tongues much like Earth toads. Unlike Terrans, male Tribbitites' gonads are located in their knees. While most Tribbitites are squat in nature, a few (possibly mutants or mutates) are much larger, such as Bufo, Torkon II and Froja (the later two stood almost 14' tall).

Tribbitite civilization is capable of interstellar travel, utilizing magnetic devices to power their spacecrafts. Most other Tribbitite equipment is magnetic-based as well, including various ray emitters and guns.

HEIGHT: 5' (average)

EYES: Two (color varies)

WEIGHT: 175 lbs. (average)

SKIN: Orange, scaled

HISTORY: Originally hailing from the planet Kroke, the reptilian Tribbitites abandoned their world for unrevealed reasons. Their lust for power and respect led them to begin stealing technology from superior alien races; using Kree designs, they created the artificial planet Tribbit (Toadworld), where their population grew to slightly over 5 billion. From there, the Tribbitites — or Toad Men, as they came to call themselves (despite their reptilian rather than amphibious nature) — built a minor empire by utilizing slaves from conquered worlds as labor to power the planet. During the reign of Toadius V, Earth was selected as the next target of conquest. A Toadship arrived on Earth seeking an intelligent being who could tell them how technologically advanced the planet was, and quickly located Dr. Bruce Banner. The crew abducted Banner and his companion Rick Jones, though they found Jones to be useless and returned him to Earth. As they prepared to interrogate Banner, their ship flew towards Earth's dark side, and the scientist transformed into his nighttime counterpart, the Hulk. The Hulk attacked his captors, and while they fought, the U.S. Army shot the craft down. Human again, Banner was found alive in the wreckage, though the Toad Men escaped by tunneling into the ground. They gave a signal to their awaiting monarch, who led a massive invasion of Earth. As thousands of Toadships arrived, Toadius V demanded the total surrender of the planet. To prove they were serious, the Toad Men used their magnetic weapons to draw the Earth's moon closer, causing worldwide panic. In a last ditch effort to stop the invaders, Banner used a giant gamma ray gun he had developed to disrupt the Toadships' magnetic rays, sending the fleet hurtling through space.

After this defeat, the Tribbitite giant Torkon II wrested control of the empire from Toadius V. As the new Toad King, he continued the empire's goals to enslave more workers for Toadworld. A scouting crew found and investigated a small, once-desolate planet now teeming with signs of life. They once again encountered the Hulk, who had been placed there by the Shaper of Worlds and Glorian in an effort to give the brute his own version of paradise. The Toad Men attacked the Hulk and two beings resembling the Hulk's friends Jarella and Crackjack Jackson (both actually alien doppelgangers created by the Shaper). The Toad Men took the Hulk's companions hostage, forcing him to return to Toadworld with them. When Torkon learned of the Shaper's involvement, he forced the Hulk to return to the paradise planet with a stolen Skrull Nulltron Bomb. The Hulk did so, and when he found the Shaper, the bomb exploded, incapacitating both of them. The Toad Men imprisoned the Shaper and returned home, hoping to use his vast powers to aid their planetary conquest. Glorian found the abandoned Hulk and brought him along to Toadworld to ask for the Shaper's release. When Torkon attacked Glorian, an anguished Shaper lost control of his reality-warping powers and the Hulk watched as Jarella and Crackjack turned into the insect-like creatures they truly were. Enraged, the Hulk rampaged wildly until Torkon and his wife Queen Froja, both almost twice the Hulk's size, attacked him. The Hulk defeated the Toad King and was returned to Earth by the Shaper. Torkon pleaded with the Shaper to help the Toad Men willingly, to no avail. As the Shaper and Glorian departed, Toadworld, severely damaged by the Hulk's rampage, spun out of control.

After repairing the mechanical planet's stability, the Toad Men attacked Earth yet again, though this time they were defeated by Captain Marvel (Mar-Vell). Torkon sought revenge on the Hulk and once again captured the brute. A loyalist to the deposed Toadius V freed the Hulk and convinced him to aid in dethroning Torkon. Successful, Hulk was returned to Earth. After so many failures and turmoil in leadership, the Toad Men reformulated their goals of conquest. During this time, they were impersonated on Earth by a group of actors hired by the super-villain Mysterio (Quentin Beck) to capture the She-Hulk. Helkooky, a Tribbitite imprisoned in the Vault after the Mar-Vell defeat, was seen on a talk show confronting Mar-Vell's son Genis-Vell.

Having rethought their strategies, the Toad Men abandoned their conquering ways and became a more peaceful race. As they still needed



Art by John Byrne

labor to power Toadworld, they again visited Earth, where they offered residents of the sleepy town of Blackberry, North Carolina (and other similar towns across the globe) the chance to visit their alien world in exchange for becoming Toadworld's workforce. Tired of their boring lives, many in the town agreed, and some even began to mate with the Tribbitites; however, the Hulk and his wife Betty foiled the plan when they arrived in town and, believing the Toad Men were again capturing slaves, intervened. The Hulk forcefully returned the Toad Men, including the massive Bufo, to their home planet by throwing them through a teleporter before destroying the machine. The town's residents, upset at the Hulk's interference, returned to their former lives, though this program remained in effect in other places across the planet.

Finally accepted by other alien races, the Toad Men sent a group of ambassadors to attend a meeting by the Intergalactic Council to discuss Earth's role and interference in the universe. After a plot by genetically disguised Kree to manipulate the Council was discovered, the Toad Men fought the Kree alongside other races. While one fleet of Toadships made its way to the planet Trellnax-3, they were transported to Earth by Yandroth, where they briefly engaged the Hulk again before being returned to their original location. Shortly thereafter, the Hulk and his Defenders cohorts were transported to Trellnax-3, and after a brief misunderstanding, aided the Toad Men in combating the Kree army. The Toad Men pronounced the Hulk a hero and invited him and the rest of the Defenders to join them in celebration.

Recently, a small crew of Toad Men were captured on Earth by intelligence agency SHIELD's Hulkbuster unit, but were released after their unique physiology was deemed unsuitable for SHIELD's Project: Achilles. SHIELD Director Tony Stark warned them not to return to Earth again.



AMPHOS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #190
(1975)



FROJA
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #191
(1975)



HELKOOKY
First Appearance:
Captain Marvel #2 (1996)



TOADIUS V
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #2 (1962)



TORKON II
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #191
(1975)



TORRAK
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #2 (1962)



BUFO
First Appearance:
Over the Edge #3 (1996)

Art by Stephen B. Jones



TOADSHIP



TOADWORLD



Art by Kyle Baker

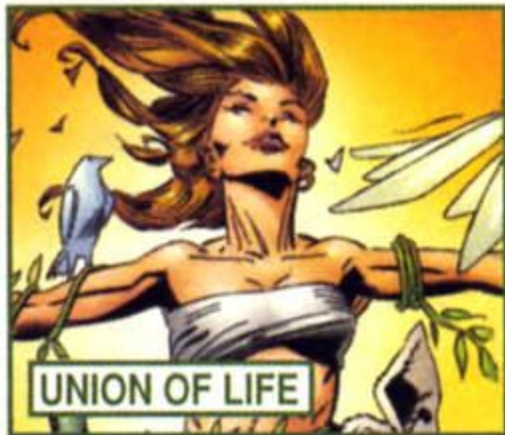
Art by Jack Kirby

Art by Herb Trimpe

FORMER MEMBERS: Owen Candler, protohuman duplicates of various people including Betty Ross Banner, surrounding insects, animals and plant life.

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Swamp that surrounds the Nexus of Realities, near Citrusville, Florida

FIRST APPEARANCE: Hulk #4 (1999)



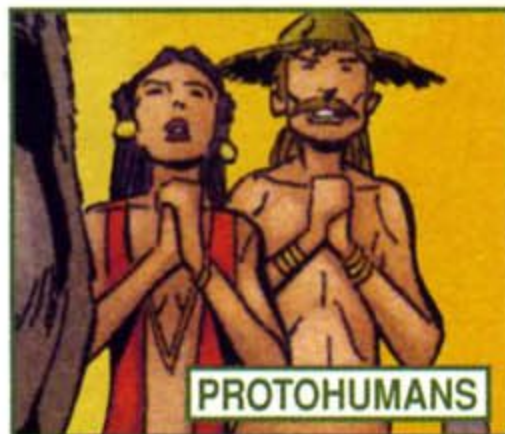
UNION OF LIFE



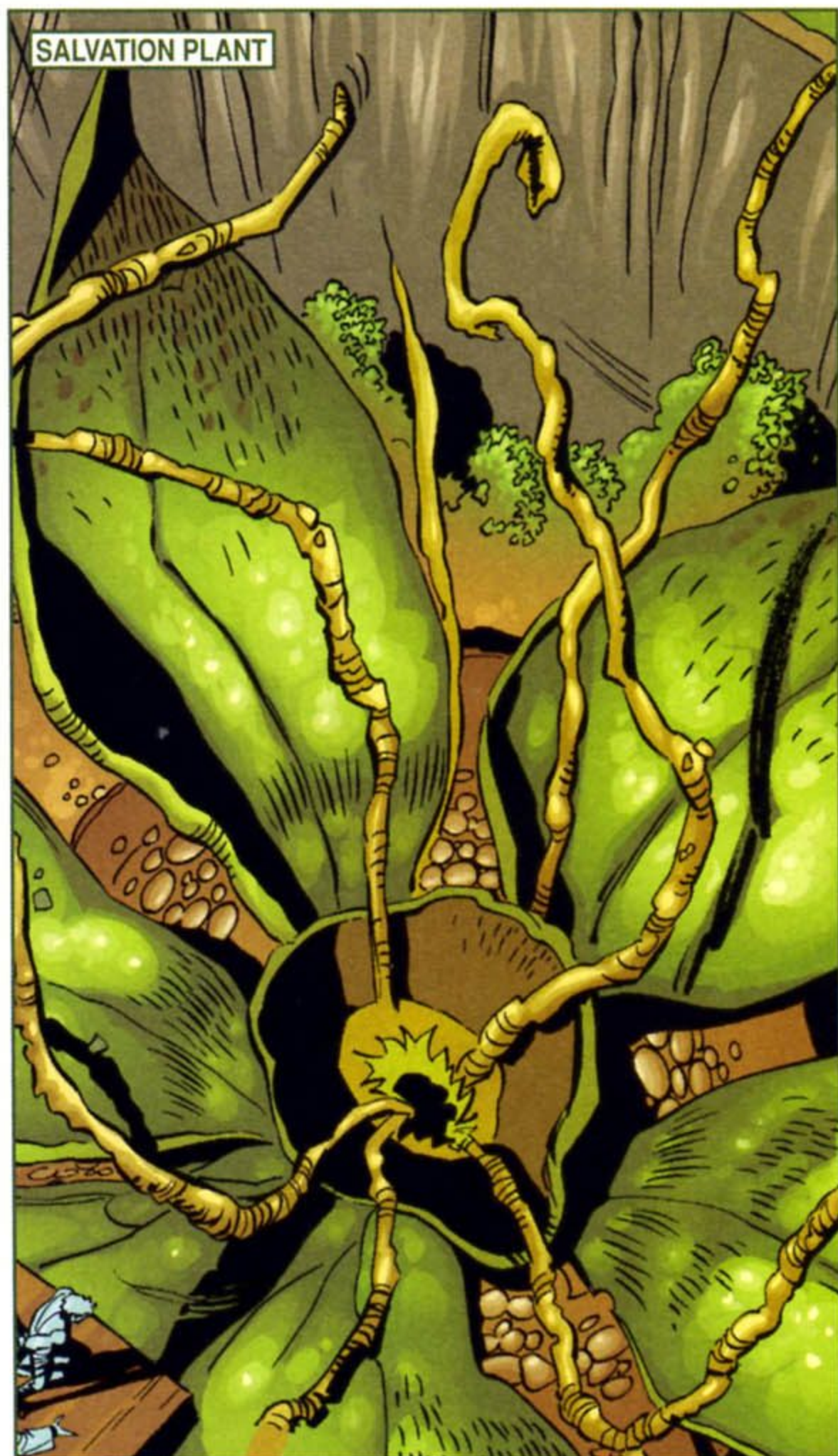
CANDLER DISASSEMBLING



"BETTY BANNER"



PROTOHUMANS



SALVATION PLANT

HISTORY: Owen Candler had a reputation throughout the scientific community as part of the forefront of gene splicing. Despite years of mixing genetic patterns he was unable to develop a pharmaceutical to rejuvenate youth and instead created a new plant life, which he called the "Salvation Plant." Although he created a new plant, it lacked something to fulfill its intended creation. Frustrated at being on the verge of a breakthrough and suffering various setbacks, Candler had a heart attack and collapsed onto the Salvation Plant. He awoke to discover a small part of the Salvation Plant had attached itself to him and the pharmacological effects not only saved him from death, but also made him younger. Candler began studying the plant and discovered he shared a symbiotic link with it. He could now create artificial life in various forms, while embedding each of them with personalities and thoughts that he deemed appropriate for them. Candler created a small compound for his new society, which he called the "Union of Life."

When the monstrous Hulk (Bruce Banner) was sighted nearby, Candler created a duplicate of Betty Ross Banner in hopes of drawing Bruce Banner to his compound, so he could use the Hulk's life energy to launch the Union's spores into the atmosphere and absorb and remake all life on the planet, bringing peace to the world. The Hulk traveled to the swamp near Candler's compound and eventually fell unconscious. Candler's protohumans brought Banner back to the compound in hopes that Banner would join the Union. Hours later, Banner awoke to discover the long-dead "Betty" in the same room with him, seemingly alive and well. Betty took Banner to meet Candler, who welcomed him, assuring him everything would be explained in the morning. Unable to sleep, Banner took a walk and found patches of moss throughout the compound where animals and people had rested for the night. Quickly searching Betty's hut, Banner soon realized that his "wife" was also artificially animated moss, causing him to begin changing into the Hulk, but he fell unconscious once more due to the spores and pollen of the Salvation Plant and its calming influence.

Unwilling to let Banner spread the truth to his society, Candler held Banner captive until they could talk privately. Candler explained to Banner what he had hoped to accomplish with the Union of Life, but Banner was unwilling to join the Union. Saddened by Banner's decision, Candler explained that the Union absorbs and remakes those willing to join, while feeding on those that do not, and he threw Banner into a pit where the Salvation Plant had grown to monstrous proportions. The Avengers, who were following the Hulk to stop his recent rampage, saved Banner from falling into the pit. After Banner's brief explanation of events, Iron Man (Tony Stark) used his armor to generate a neutralizing wavelength causing all artificial life to dissolve. Watching his "wife" die and the airborne spores no longer present in the area, Banner turned into the Hulk and unleashed his fury on the Avengers, Candler and the Salvation Plant. As the Hulk tore the Salvation Plant to pieces, its symbiotic link to Candler caused Candler's body to tear itself apart, becoming a plantlike creature. Candler quickly realized that the plant had not saved his life, but had consumed it instead. Consumed by madness and fear, what was left of Candler fled into the swamp only to run into Man-Thing, the guardian of the Nexus. The Man-Thing touched the terrified Candler, burning him to ashes. With Candler's symbiotic link severed, the Salvation Plant withered and died.



OWEN CANDLER

HISTORY: Part of the Tayo star system in the Fornax Galaxy, the planet Sakaar was the longtime home to three sentient species: the six-limbed insectoid Natives, the red-skinned humanoid Imperials and the gray giant humanoid Shadow People. The Natives' society centered on large patriarchal hives of up to 200 members, each ruled by a dominant King whose sons tended to the daily operations of their mud spires. The Native Queens preferred solitary lives in distant dense forests. Upon hatching, each larva was "chem-bonded" with its brothers, communicating via chemical pheromones in a manner akin to telepathy. Natives separated from their hive were considered unclean outcasts or "unhivers" and forced to live in solitude.

Several millennia ago, the Shadow People's stone starship crashed in the Northern Steppes. Unable to return to their native planet, the Shadow People strove to serve and protect their new home, becoming secretive nomadic warriors of the steppes. In each generation, only a handful of them possessed the planet-based Old Power, including heightened strength, dexterity and durability, but the Power gradually faded through time until only a few could wield a weaker version of it. The legendary Shadow Prophet, after fasting for 7 days, founded the Saka religion, teaching of two warriors: the Sakaarson and the World Breaker, destined to bring peace and to destroy the world, respectively. While many theologians believed them simply representations of the good and evil in each person, others believed them to be actual flesh-and-blood people who would come to Sakaar and fulfill their respective destinies.

Over 2000 years ago, the Imperials' first recorded ancestors appeared on the edge of the Great Desert. Originally nomadic hunters and gatherers, they learned agricultural techniques from the Natives and formed small city-states, choosing their leaders via gladiatorial matches; the last man standing would be crowned the city-state's "Prime Lord." Hostilities increased between them and the Natives over land and resources, and they eventually outnumbered the Natives. Over 400 years ago the city-states began allying with each other, producing 7 Imperial kingdoms ruled by familial bloodlines instead of the best fighters. The gladiatorial battles were now for sport, featuring retired soldiers, unemployed youths and convicted criminals seeking pardon, all competing for the title of world's greatest warrior. After centuries of inter-kingdom warfare, General Angmo of the Umegus kingdom annexed the other 6 realms and created the First Sakaarian Empire, ruling as its Father Emperor.

Born in a Saka temple in the Northern Steppes, Hiroim was the illegitimate son of two celibate Shadow priests who mysteriously disappeared soon after his birth. The remaining priests raised Hiroim to become a priest himself. Taught the stories of the Sakaarson, Hiroim secretly came to believe he was the prophesized Son of Sakaar. He began to prepare himself for his supposed role by swearing never to lie, cheat, steal or profane his body's purity. Hiroim easily passed the priesthood's physical tests, but when his master telepathically learned of his blasphemous secret belief, Hiroim lashed out, breaking his master's nose and earning him the title Hiroim the Shamed. For years he wandered the Shadow tribes, learning their martial traditions in return for providing spiritual guidance. When the voracious spore-like alien Spikes crash-landed and began to consume all organic creatures, Hiroim became the military leader of the combined Shadow Tribes, saving thousands. The Father Emperor formed an alliance with the Shadow Elders to defeat the Spikes, their Shadow

CURRENT MEMBERS: Brood Creature 2 of 6 (aka No-Name), Hiroim the Shamed, Hulk (Bruce Banner), Elloe Kaifi, Korg, Miek, various surviving Sakaarians

FORMER MEMBERS: Arch-E-5912, Lavin Skee, Caiera the Oldstrong

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Shadow People's stone starship; formerly Sakaar

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #94 (2006)

Treaty providing the Father Emperor and his teenaged heir with their own personal warbound Shadow Guards to serve them. The Emperor chose Hiroim, while his son Angmo II chose the teenaged Caiera, one of the few Shadows with the Old Power. Hiroim served the Emperor for several years, during which the Shadow People secretly created the Great Portal, a wormhole that brought beings and objects from around the universe to their world in hopes of summoning the Sakaarson. The mechanical Death's Head Warguard troop arrived through the Great Portal and were instrumental in ending the decades-long Spike war. Hiroim eventually left the Father Emperor's service under mysterious circumstances, breaking his warbond and exiling himself into the deserts.

When two robotic Autocrons arrived via the Great Portal, they were appalled at the treatment of Sakaar's mechanical slaves and plotted to liberate their enslaved brethren, rewiring the freed robots for independent thought and to join their army based in the Twisted Woods outside the Empire's capital, Crown City. The Autocrons were killed during a raid to liberate and reprogram the Death's Heads, leaving the Autocrons' surviving soldiers to devolve into tribes of increasingly erratic Wildebots, preying on the rural Imperial villages and Native hives. After the Father Emperor's death, Angmo II took over as the Red King. He soon revoked the land rights granted to Native veterans of the Spike war who settled within a thousand spans of the capital. Imperial Lieutenant Charr confronted one of the Native Kings, who reluctantly left his lands peacefully to ensure his sons' survival, but Charr declared the hive had been started illegally and ordered the deaths of the King's sons. The King fought back and was slain along with most of his sons. The juvenile Miek escaped the attacking Imperials, but was later captured. He spent several years as a slave before escaping, living as a scavenger for years in Crown City's slums, shunned as an unhiver.

Meanwhile, Fifth Community Congress Representative Rona Kaifi sent several petitions to the Red King for soldiers to protect his constituents from the Wildebots, but was ignored in favor of the Red King's growing war against the rebelling Fillia Province. Kaifi became more outspoken against the Red King's policies, leading his family to be ostracized by many highborn Imperials. Kaifi's political leanings also eventually damaged the marriage prospects of his daughter Elloe during her debut year in the Olympia Imperia competitions, though she later came to share his views. When several of the Empire's critics were killed, Kaifi hired himself a bodyguard: former Imperial Captain Lavin Skee, a veteran of



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HULK, HIROIM THE SHAMED, KORG, ELLOE KAIFI, MIEK & NO-NAME

the first Emperor's personal guard; an increasingly paranoid Red King had replaced Skee and other imperial captains with the Death's Head guards and their programmed loyalty, spurring the demoted Skee to become more critical of the Empire's policies.

After the secretive "Illuminati" group exiled the Hulk (Bruce Banner) from Earth via trickery, his shuttle passed through the Great Portal and crashed on Sakaar. Temporarily weakened, he was enslaved by Imperial forces. Implanted with an obedience disk, the Hulk was eventually sold to gladiator trainer Primus Vand for fights in Crown City's Great Arena. Teamed with a slave group composed mostly of Natives, including the recently recaptured Miek, the Hulk defeated a pair of arachnoid great devil corks. Afterwards Miek explained that they could be pardoned by the Red King's whim, but the Hulk instead angrily attacked the Red King. Amused by his ferocity, the Red King condescendingly slashed the Hulk's cheek in combat, but in return the Hulk slashed the Red King's cheek, earning him the Emperor's undying hatred; Hulk and his fellow slaves were sent to the lethal gladiator training school, the Maw. There the Hulk quickly slew a deadly lava-bodied mawkaw magkong monster, impressing long-time robot trainee Arch-E-5912. Primus Vand then combined the Hulk's group with a second group including several Imperials, as well as a newly enslaved Hiroim; and the stone-like Kronan Korg, seemingly the only survivor of a long-ago Earthbound invasion force driven off by the thunder god Thor. Of the 22 slaves present, Vand declared, only 7 would leave the field alive. Ronan Kaifi, arrested days earlier with Elloe and Skee in a surprise raid and sold to Vand, demanded to know what crimes he was charged with; Vand incinerated Kaifi with a terminal feedback charge via his implanted obedience disk. The two slave groups fought each other and a third group composed of several insectoid Brood, who had escaped their throneworld's destruction at the X-Men's hands in the belly of a crystallized beast. The 7 surviving slaves — Hulk, Miek, Hiroim, Elloe, Skee, Korg and Brood creature 2 of 6 — became a team, warily getting acquainted in their cell.

The next day they faced 5 of Korg's supposedly dead Kronan crewmates, who had been reduced to mindless killing machines after fighting their obedience disks too long. After killing the 5 crewmen, the 7 officially became gladiators and were sent to the first of three televised fights needed to win their freedom and become citizens of the Empire. The Hulk destroyed the legendary giant Eggbreaker, leader of a pack of Wildebots that the other gladiators slew to the cheers of the watching farmers and Imperials. Afterwards, the 7 gladiators were guests of honor at the victory feast, and a trio of Imperial ladies chose Skee for a private party in their quarters. Rebels then arrived and asked the gladiators to join them against the Red King, but Elloe was the only one willing, and was taken prisoner along with the rebels by the Warguard before Skee could return and save her. In the second bout at the Arena, a vengeful Red King changed the rules of combat, ordering a precision Deathfire bomb and the Death's Head Warguard used against the gladiators. The Hulk took the explosion's brunt, and a mortally wounded Skee instructed the others how to defeat the Warguard with their blades, while a badly hurt Hulk destroyed the rest. Back in their cell, Hiroim convinced the others to become the Warbound, united forever in life and death, including the dead Skee in the oath.

The next morning, the Warbound fought an enslaved Silver Surfer until the Hulk broke the Surfer's obedience disk and beat him into the ground, achieving their third needed victory. The Red King ordered the gladiators to kill Elloe as a final test of loyalty, but they all refused, considering her Warbound in Skee's place. The recovering Surfer destroyed every obedience disk in the Arena, freeing the slaves and escaping with the Warbound. Needing a place to train their new rebel army, Miek led them to his former hive's village, now settled by Imperials. Though the others discouraged him, he faced the man responsible for his hive's destruction, Headman Charr, in single combat. Miek succeeded only

by cutting off one of his own arms to escape Charr's grip, but found himself unable to kill Charr and keened his frustration. When this cry was unexpectedly answered, the Warbound learned the villagers had kept Miek's surviving brothers imprisoned as slaves; in response, the Warbound leveled the village and freed the Natives. When the Warbound freed another group of rebel Natives from the pursuing Imperial Army, Miek — determined to "never stop making them pay" per the Hulk's earlier advice — again faced Charr and vengefully slew him. Later overwhelmed by the "chemming" communications of his hurting fellow Natives, Miek transformed himself into the Natives' King form, and convinced the Hulk to hunt the Red King while Hiroim and Korg led the refugees into the Shadow Steppes.

Caiera challenged the Hulk to mortal combat in an attempt to protect Sakaar's various populations from an increasingly erratic Red King, but the fight was interrupted when the Red King unleashed a barrage of Spikes to kill the Hulk, sacrificing his own men to get at him. Caiera left the mad Emperor's service and joined the Warbound. The Hulk wiped out that group of Spikes, but not before they fatally infected the last known Native Queen, forcing Miek to kill her to save the others, and condemning the surviving Natives to eventual extinction. While Korg, Miek and Elloe led the rebel forces to Crown City, Hiroim, Caiera and Hulk sought the Shadow Elders' allegiance. Though Caiera and Hiroim introduced the Hulk as their long-sought savior, the Elders believed the Hulk too violent to be him, and refused. The three Warbound left, forcibly taking the Shadow People's great stone starship with them. The Hulk also allied with the Spike leaders. The Warbound then faced the Red King himself. The Hulk ordered Miek to "chem-link" them with the Red King so he would know all the pain he caused them over the years, but the Red King refused to care. He and Hulk fought; when the Hulk refused to kneel and beg to stay his royal wrath, the Red King activated a doomsday device that cracked the planet's tectonic plates, condemning it to a fiery death, but the Hulk shifted the plates back just enough to stop the destruction. He then punched the Red King into the Twisted Woods, where Wildebots slaughtered him. The Hulk became Sakaar's new Emperor by popular acclaim.

The Hulk forcibly ended the old feuds between the Imperials and the Natives, then finalized the new treaty with the Shadow Elders by making Caiera his Empress. 2 of 6 tried to convince Miek to leave behind his old hatreds and start a new life with her, but they instead found the Illuminati's farewell recording in the Hulk's shuttle. Miek used it to remind the Hulk that his true purpose in life was revenge and destruction, but the Hulk preferred the new peace to his old grudges, confounding Miek. The Hulk had Elloe and Miek help the Spikes return to their native habitats in space, sent Hiroim and Korg to negotiate a treaty with the rebellious Fillians, and had Arch-E-5912 go on a diplomatic mission to the Wildebots and surviving Warguards to include them in the new world's order. But the new peace was short-lived as the warp core in the shuttle's engines mysteriously exploded over the damaged tectonic plates, destroying Crown City, killing Caiera (pregnant with the Hulk's child), and wiping out virtually the entire populace of Sakaar. Blaming the Illuminati for the destruction, the survivors joined the Warbound on their new quest to travel to Earth and take vengeance on the Illuminati and all their heroic allies.

Arriving in New York City, the Warbound began using the city's infrastructure to secure medical supplies for their wounded fellow refugees and to investigate the deadly energy attack by parties unknown against Arch-E-5912 during a scouting mission down 42nd Street. While the Hulk violently subdued the Illuminati who exiled him, the Warbound implanted the captured heroes with obedience disks and forced them into gladiator matches in Madison Square Garden. Some of the Warbound privately fear that the Hulk's rage might ultimately kill them as well.

KATE WAYNESBORO

HISTORY: A noted scientist who published several monographs on gamma radiation, Dr. Kate Waynesboro was also secretly active as a SHIELD agent, assigned to maintain surveillance on Bruce Banner; at that time, Banner could transform into the Hulk at will while retaining his full intellect, a measure of control SHIELD feared he would lose. Exploiting Banner's desire for the company of fellow scientists at his isolated Northwind Observatory laboratory in upstate New York, Kate became his research assistant, studying the effects of daily gamma bursts from space; but Recordasphere, Banner's robot companion, soon learned Kate's true mission. When Kate and Banner grew closer, "Sphere" confronted Kate, but their argument was interrupted when the Abomination attacked Northwind, seeking to capture the Hulk on MODOK's behalf. After the Abomination destroyed Sphere, Kate attacked him with a SHIELD weapon, revealing her agent status, which fueled Banner's rage when he fought the Abomination as the Hulk. The Hulk's growing love for Kate outweighed his anger, however, when the Abomination took Kate to MODOK's lair, which the high-tech subversives AIM had since seized as part of their anti-MODOK campaign. By the time the Hulk arrived in pursuit, along with MODOK himself, AIM had mutated Kate into Ms. MODOK, but she rejected AIM's post-hypnotic orders and sided with MODOK until the latter demonstrated his cruelty by seemingly slaying the Abomination. Spurned and furious, MODOK nevertheless restored Kate to human form and departed. Kate subsequently resigned from SHIELD to remain with Banner as his assistant and lover.

Banner and Kate traveled to Mexico's Universidad de la Ciudad, which had financed an experiment with Banner's gammascope to use gamma radiation in enhancing crops. The crops were destroyed by Dragon Man, whom the Hulk subsequently fought in the midst of the Circus of Crime. Returning to New York, Banner and Kate were attacked by Sam Burgh, whose hometown of Hadleyville, Rhode Island, had been destroyed by the Hulk years before; with attorney Matt Murdock's help, the Hulk dissuaded the courts from prosecuting Burgh, and he rebuilt Burgh's town, but the reminder of his past destructive activities weighed upon his psyche and self-control, which grew more strained with each crisis. Banner and Kate then used the gammascope in cancer research, seemingly curing the dog Sirius; Banner hoped to eventually guarantee the treatment's safety for humans, but aging gangster Max Stryker hired Boomerang to abduct Kate, forcing Banner to cure Stryker despite misgivings. When the Hulk was away from Northwind for a time, Stryker co-opted the gammascope to cure several others, and his irresponsibility infuriated the Hulk, contributing to Banner's growing loss of control. Both men soon learned the gamma treatment had eventually transformed Sirius into a savage monster, and Stryker underwent a similar mutation, fighting the Hulk. When the Spaceknight Rom was drawn to the scene, he cleansed Stryker's patients of gamma radiation, then reverted Stryker

REAL NAME: Katherine "Kate" Waynesboro
ALIASES: Ms. MODOK
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Former research assistant, SHIELD agent/scientist
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Collinwood, Tennessee
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly SHIELD (Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division)
EDUCATION: Ph.D. in physics with specialization in gamma radiation
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #287 (1983)

to normal, but the battle proved the final straw to rob the Hulk of his control, reverting him to savagery. Kate accompanied Gabriel Jones and other SHIELD agents in efforts to defeat the Hulk, attempting to dissuade her former colleagues from using lethal force, but despite brief periods of regained control, Banner was ultimately overwhelmed by a mindless Hulk persona. Several of New York's super heroes joined SHIELD in combat, and Kate departed the fray before the Hulk was finally banished to another dimension by Dr. Strange.

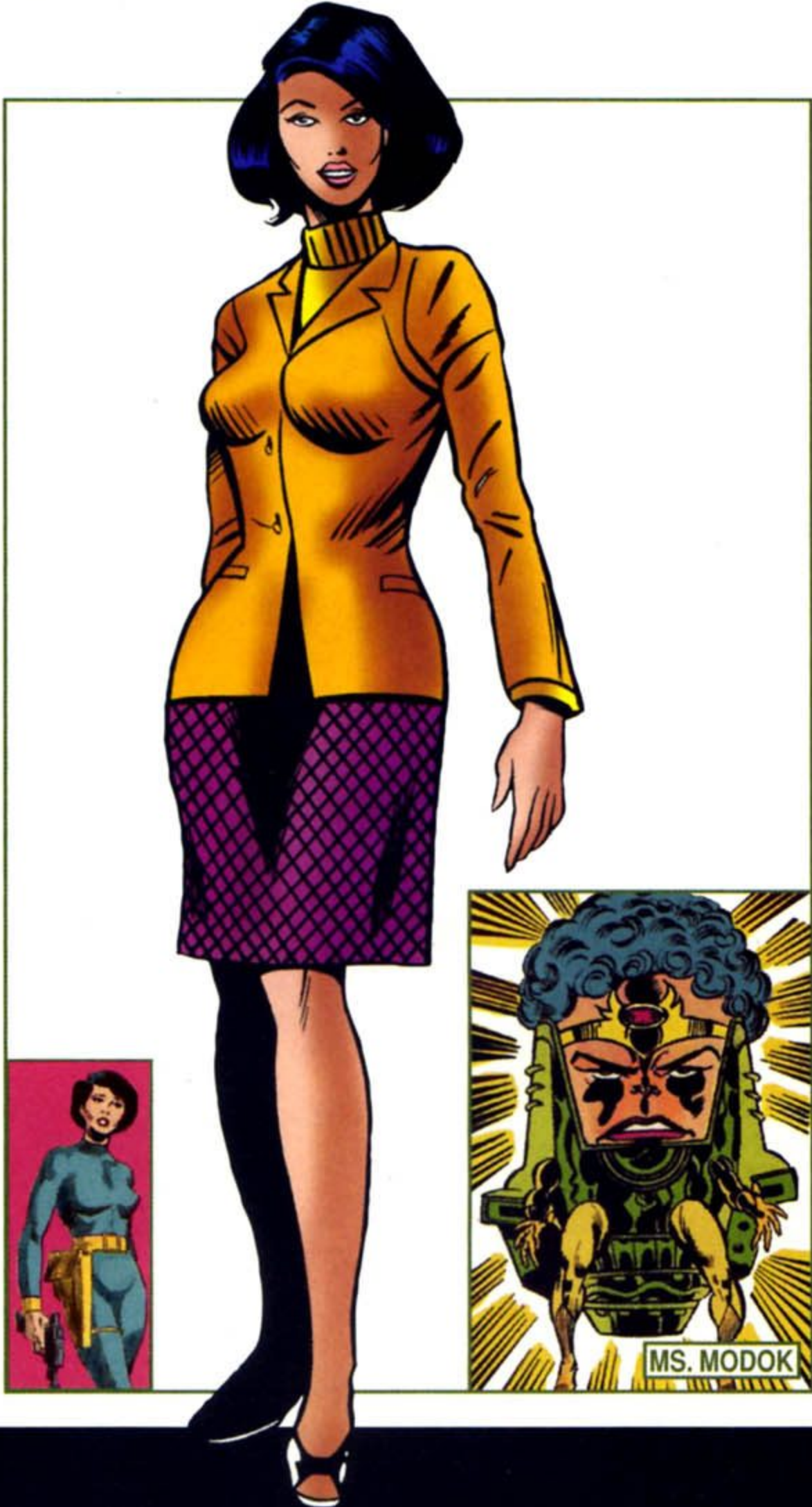
Although unconfirmed reports suggest Kate may have reverted to Ms. MODOK form at least once, little else is known of her subsequent activities. As far as is known, she never formally rejoined SHIELD, but she was recently revealed to be working with Gabriel Jones on undisclosed projects.

HEIGHT: 5'8³/₄"
EYES: Brown

WEIGHT: 134 lbs.
HAIR: Black

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Kate Waynesboro is an accomplished biophysicist with some SHIELD training, albeit not enough to function as a field agent. As a SHIELD agent, she carried an ion-disruptor weapon, a holographic communicator and other equipment as necessary. As the mutated Ms. MODOK, she could sense the thoughts of others, fire bolts of psionic energy and move about in a hover-chair.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



JIM WILSON

REAL NAME: James "Jim" Wilson

ALIASES: "Jimbo"

IDENTITY: No dual identity

OCCUPATION: AIDS clinic manager; former vigilante, drifter, sidekick

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Harlem, New York

KNOWN RELATIVES: Gideon Wilson (Mr. Gideon, father), Mrs. Wilson (mother), Sam Wilson (Falcon, uncle), Sarah Casper (aunt), Jody Casper (cousin)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Young Watchers, Corporation, US military (special civilian associate)

EDUCATION: High school (unfinished)

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #131 (1970)

HISTORY: Jim Wilson grew up in Harlem at odds with his father, a strict Christian minister. A restless dreamer, Jim had always wanted to travel, an impulse perhaps fueled in part by the demise of the Wilsons' upstairs neighbor "Smiley." An elderly blues musician, Smiley had died a lingering, lonely death when Jim was still very young, and the shaken Wilson boy prayed he would never die old and helpless like that. Seeking adventure and escape from his fractious household, Jim dropped out of school at age 15, sparking an angry argument with his father that nearly ended in violence. Jim left town on the next bus to Los Angeles, where he soon became a starving street person. Unwilling to return home, Wilson lived in a burned-out tenement building and claimed he was an LA native whose parents had died in a fire, sometimes even convincing himself that his

story was true. The desperate Jim once snatched a woman's purse, but felt so ashamed that he left it behind without taking any money.

When the fugitive man-monster Hulk (Bruce Banner) sought refuge in Jim's tenement, he and Wilson bonded with each other as kindred spirits and fellow outcasts. Jim quickly became one of the Hulk's closest friends, aiding him against foes such as Hydra, the Leader, Xemnu, Rhino, Abomination, Quintronic Man and Stingray. Jim also began a recurring association with the US Army, who often called on Wilson's aid since he was one of the few people with any positive influence over the unstable Hulk's actions. Despite his wariness of authority in general and the military in particular, Jim gradually became friendly with General "Thunderbolt" Ross and his daughter Betty. Wilson also began a serious long-term romance with fellow civilian Talia Green, though she disapproved of Jim's ties to the Hulk.

Briefly drawn into the subversive Corporation organization, Jim quickly turned on them and was marked for death, but Hulk rescued him from their assassin Constrictor. Befriending stage magician Kropotkin the Great and Banner's landlady April Sommers, Jim also participated in Doc Samson's ill-fated attempts to rehabilitate the Hulk, sabotaged by Corporation agent Moonstone (Karla Sofen). The Hulk subsequently helped Captain America, the Falcon and Marvel Man (Wendell Vaughn) deal the Corporation a crushing defeat. In the process, Jim learned the Falcon was his uncle Sam Wilson, and he renewed ties with some of his Harlem relatives. Jim also joined community-policing group the Young Watchers, helping Falcon and Spider-Man purge a secret criminal faction within the Watchers led by gang boss Stone-Face.

Somehow contracting the HIV virus and developing AIDS, Jim was abandoned by Talia and found a new calling as manager of a Los Angeles clinic that cared for dying AIDS patients. When the clinic ran afoul of crime boss Paul Lang, Jim called in Falcon, fellow Hulk sidekick Rick Jones and the now-intelligent Hulk for assistance, and Jim helped fight off Lang's super-assassin Speedfreak. Seriously wounded, Jim recovered but later suffered further injuries when he was attacked at a protest rally. The Hulk broke up the scuffle and arranged medical treatment for Jim, whose health was far worse than he had previously admitted. Dying, Jim begged for a transfusion of Banner's gamma-irradiated blood in the hopes that it might cure him, but the Hulk refused, fearing he might transform Jim into another destructive monster. Accepting Bruce's decision, Jim died peacefully shortly thereafter with the Hulk at his bedside. Banner later anonymously donated enough money to keep Jim's clinic running for the next decade.

HEIGHT: 5'10"

EYES: Brown

WEIGHT: 144 lbs.

HAIR: Black

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Quick-witted and resourceful, Jim developed some fighting skills while partnered with the Hulk; achieved a passing familiarity with assorted military equipment, installations and procedures during his association with the US Army; learned chess from Betty Ross; and trained in unarmed combat with the Young Watchers. An experienced traveler and a frequent hitchhiker, he had extensive knowledge of many American towns and highways. Charismatic and funny, Jim was a loyal and courageous young man who made friends easily. He was also a capable manager and a dedicated social activist.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



Art by Herb Trimpe with Gary Frank (inset)

WOODGOD AND THE CHANGELINGS

HISTORY: Drs. David and Ellen Pace were biogeneticists hired by the government to synthesize a lethal toxic nerve gas; though opposed to violence, the couple accepted the job so that they could use the its resources for their own project: gene-splicing human and animal DNA to create a new, hybrid species, which they hoped would combine man's intellect with the animal kingdom's proclivity toward peaceful coexistence. Assigned to Trinity Base (unofficially referred to as Vertigo Base and Tranquility Base due to its nerve gas research) in New Mexico, the Paces concealed their side project from their superiors by arranging to work off base on a farm outside the nearby town of Liberty. They successfully created a satyr-like being they dubbed Woodgod, with an accelerated metagrowth rate both physically and intellectually, designed to bring him rapidly to maturity. Within minutes of awakening he could speak rudimentary English, with his brain cell count tripling within 5 minutes of his birth. Within 2 days he had learned to walk, and was exploring the world with an infant's curiosity; by the third day his physical growth had leveled off, but his mind showed no sign of slowing.

Unfortunately, the base had accidentally spilled some nerve gas a year earlier, causing deaths amongst the local sheep and illness amongst the populace, leaving the townsfolk suspicious of base personnel. Local man Greg Davis snuck onto the farm to spy, and spotted Woodgod. Racing into town, he soon returned with a drunken mob, who demanded the Paces hand over the "freak" immediately. When David Pace tried to reason with them, the mob beat him, then shot the confused Woodgod. Finding glass canisters containing bubbling liquid, the mob concluded the Paces were brewing more monsters, and despite desperate warnings from the Paces that the tanks contained nerve gas, the townsfolk shattered them. Within seconds, a cloud of purple gas slew virtually every living creature within 15 miles, except for Woodgod. Having swiftly healed from his wound and somehow immune to the gas, Woodgod wandered into Liberty looking for his "parents," unable to fully comprehend their deaths. At the nearby Vertigo Base, the personnel detected the town's demise and spotted Woodgod's wanderings on satellite surveillance. Major Del Tremens led a squad of men on floater bikes into Liberty to capture him, wanting to learn how he had survived the gas and cover up the base's culpability in the leak; however, Woodgod brought down the three fliers, damaging their pilots' protective clothing and killing them instantly. Only Tremens survived, a question he desperately asked Woodgod triggering memories of the creature's dead parents and causing him to halt the attack and wander away reminiscing.

Tremens swiftly quarantined the area, knowing they only had a short time to destroy the evidence before a government inquiry team arrived. To make matters worse, less than a day later, the man-monster Hulk wandered into Liberty, soon clashing with Woodgod. Tremens' orders to his men to destroy both creatures were picked up on the passing X-Shuttle's view screen as the X-Men flew home from an unrelated adventure; concerned for the well-being of the Hulk's alter ego, Bruce Banner, the X-Men's passenger, Spider-Man, asked the mutant heroes to drop him off near Liberty. Luckily for Spider-Man, a recent exposure to an anti-radiation mist unknowingly immunized him from the purple nerve gas. Upon his arrival, the Hulk and Woodgod initially stopped their fight and united against Spider-Man, whom they deemed a common enemy; Spider-Man thus allowed Tremens' men to cover them with an electro-mass net, designed to electrocute its captives while simultaneously becoming heavier the more they struggled. Realizing Tremens intended to kill his captives, Spider-Man destroyed the net's controls, allowing them to break free. Tremens instead subdued all three intruders with anesthetic gas, then took them back to Vertigo Base. He informed Spider-Man of his intention to fire Woodgod into space inside a converted ICBM, then blame the town's destruction on the Hulk and Spider-Man, but Spider-Man escaped and freed Woodgod, and together they released the Hulk. Tremens tried to slay them using an atomic cannon, but the Hulk and Woodgod destroyed it; the resultant shockwave knocked Spider-Man inside the ICBM, which

REAL NAME: Woodgod

ALIASES: Creator, "Bambi"

IDENTITY: No dual identity

OCCUPATION: None; former lawgiver of the Changelings

CITIZENSHIP: Community of Changelings

PLACE OF BIRTH: Pace Farm, just outside Liberty, New Mexico

KNOWN RELATIVES: David & Ellen Pace ("parents," deceased)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Community of Changelings

EDUCATION: Extensively self-taught

FIRST APPEARANCE: Marvel Premiere #31 (1976)

Tremens launched. While the Hulk tried to rescue Spider-Man, Woodgod slew Tremens, then departed after watching his new friends vanish high into the stratosphere.

His intellect and understanding continuing to grow, Woodgod returned to his parents' farm, where he uncovered the Paces' files. Thanks to the quarantine, Woodgod was able to work in solitude as he memorized their gene-splicing techniques; after a week, having reached an adult intellect, he swore that as the only living member of the Pace family he would carry on his parents' legacy, then burned the farm down to prevent their secrets falling into the wrong hands. Breaking back into Vertigo Base, he stole his parents' corpses, intending to bury them in the new utopia he was going to create. He set up house in a remote part of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, where he created more hybrids like himself, calling his new people the Changelings. While most of the Changelings happily accepted Woodgod's rule, Leoninus and Viperus became discontented. While Viperus fled the Changelings' valley, risking revealing their existence to the outside world, Leoninus, wishing his creator's power for his own, learned the gene-splicing techniques, and secretly began creating his own Changelings: Elephantine, Fury and Pantherus.



Woodgod led an expedition to retrieve Viperus, apprehending him hiding out in a carnival, but their pursuit had led them too close to humans. Out on a hunting trip with the gamma-powered Doc Samson, the mentally unbalanced General "Thunderbolt" Ross caught a glimpse of the Changeling Centauron, and shot at him, mistaking him for the Hulk. The wounded centaur collapsed at Ross' cabin, where Ross' daughter Betty and her friends Fred Sloan and Rick Jones tended his wounds. Woodgod soon came looking for his lost Changeling, overpowering Samson and taking the others back to the Changeling village, intending to execute them if Centauron died. Woodgod prepared a healing elixir for Centauron, but Leoninus, hoping to sow dissent among Woodgod's followers, secretly poisoned it while it was being delivered by Siren. The Hulk soon came in search of his kidnapped friends, battling the Changelings who tried to stop him, but his friends asked him to leave since he was only making things worse; annoyed, the Hulk departed. Meanwhile, with Centauron having died, Leoninus demanded the death of the humans and revealed his own Changelings, challenging Woodgod as leader of their people. Siren, having figured out what Leoninus had done, flew after the Hulk and convinced both him and Doc Samson to return to the Changeling village. With the revelation of Leoninus' murdering actions and the assistance of the Hulk and Samson, Leoninus' coup d'etat was thwarted. Afterward Woodgod elected to stand down as Changeling leader, wanting his people to learn to govern themselves, and Fred Sloan chose to stay with the group for a while after the other humans left.

At some point Woodgod was kidnapped by the mysterious Stranger, who took him to his laboratory world for observation alongside several other specimens. Eventually the Over-Mind invaded the lab world, using his mind powers to direct the captives there into attacking the Stranger and the hero Quasar (Wendell Vaughn). After being freed, Woodgod joined several other Earth super-beings in pooling their abilities to return home, eventually landing in Siberia. From there, Woodgod returned to the Changeling village, and resumed creating new Changelings, including Dovia, a satyr-like hybrid like himself. They briefly became romantically involved, but then Woodgod broke off the relationship, convinced he had to stand alone from the other Changelings for their own safety. Woodgod also befriended Nick Fury, head of the spy agency SHIELD, under undisclosed circumstances; Fury nicknamed Woodgod "Bambi."

Meanwhile, Leoninus — seemingly forgiven for his past transgressions — made contact with a Roxxon scouting team which had been investigating rumors of the Changelings' existence. He made a deal with Roxxon's Dr. Malachi Oz, kidnapping all the female Changelings to be used in Oz's crossbreeding program. Tracking down the missing women, Woodgod rescued them and killed Oz before he could begin his experiments; Leoninus escaped. Some time later, the forces of Vertigo Base finally tracked the Changelings down, apparently slaying all but Woodgod, who reverted back to his more taciturn and aggressive youthful personality as a result of the trauma of seeing his friends slaughtered. Alongside SHIELD super-agent Psi-Borg, Nick Fury discovered the massacre and encountered both the Vertigo Base agents and Woodgod. Sending Psi-Borg for reinforcements, Fury battled the agents, but when Woodgod began slaying them, Fury intervened, stunning him with a blaster shot. Claiming Woodgod was dead, Fury removed the body, and dropped the recovered Woodgod off in the forest 40 miles away.

Woodgod apparently found a new home on an island with a lighthouse, either creating new Changelings or locating other survivors; Woodgod later rescued a seemingly delirious Namor from the sea when the Sub-Mariner temporarily lost his ability to breathe underwater. Some time after this encounter Woodgod was captured, ending up in the custody of Canadian agency Department H, who held him insensate on Floor 13 while they tried to extract his unstable DNA. His subsequent fate following the exposure of Department H's wrongdoing and their closure is unrevealed.



CENTAURIA
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #251



CENTAURIO
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #248



CENTAURON
First Appearance:
Marvel Comics Presents #76



DOVINIA
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



ELEPHANTINE
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



FURY
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



LEONINUS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



MINOTAURUS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



NEPTUNUS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #251



PANTHERUS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #252



PINTA
First Appearance:
Marvel Comics Presents #76



SIREN
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #251



VIPERUS
First Appearance:
Incredible Hulk #251

HEIGHT: 6'3"
EYES: Grey; red when angry

WEIGHT: 265 lbs.
HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Woodgod possesses superhuman strength, able to lift approximately 50 tons. His reflexes, endurance and durability are all enhanced above human norms, and he is resistant to chemical toxins. He appears to heal at an accelerated rate. His sense of smell is acute enough to track people by scent. He is a skilled geneticist and engineer. Like all Changelings, he gives off a virtually imperceptible radioactive aura, which can be tracked using the right equipment. He can enter a berserk state he terms "scream" when badly hurt or in severe shock.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							

CAPTAIN AXIS

REAL NAME: Otto Kronsteig

ALIASES: Führer

IDENTITY: Known to Shaper of Worlds and Hulk

OCCUPATION: Former Führer of Moto, scientific assistant to Dr. Doom, Nazi scientist

CITIZENSHIP: Germany

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed

KNOWN RELATIVES: None

GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly Nazi party

EDUCATION: Unrevealed

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #155 (1972)

HISTORY: Otto Kronsteig was one of Adolph Hitler's most brilliant scientists, during which time he apparently developed a means to extend his life span. Upon the Nazi defeat, Kronsteig fled Germany, eventually seeking refuge in Dr. Doom's Latveria, where he helped Doom create a size-reduction ray. Fearing his assistant would ultimately attempt a coup d'état, Doom tested the finished ray on Kronsteig himself. Shrinking into a "Microverse," Kronsteig arrived at the planetoid Moto ruled by the reality-altering Shaper of Worlds who, tired of bringing the slug-like inhabitants' dreams to life, fulfilled Kronsteig's dream of a Nazi-invaded USA by turning the Motons into human beings, creating a war-torn Manhattan and installing Kronsteig as Führer on Wall Street; however, shrunk by Ant-Man (Henry Pym)'s serum, the Hulk arrived on Moto as well and opposed Kronsteig. Based on dreams of a genetic surgery-enhanced Nazi super-being taken from Kronsteig's mind, the Shaper transformed Kronsteig into Captain Axis. When the Hulk fought Axis to a standstill, Kronsteig noted that he could never dream of being put to such a challenge. Since the Shaper could not maintain what could not be dreamed, Axis reverted back to Kronsteig. The Shaper departed soon after, returning Moto to normal and apparently stranding Kronsteig there.

HEIGHT: (Captain Axis) 7'10"; (Kronsteig) 5'3"

WEIGHT: (Captain Axis) 516 lbs.; (Kronsteig) 113 lbs.

EYES: (Right) blue; (left) no visible iris

HAIR: Bald

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Captain Axis had superhuman strength, durability and fighting ability sufficient to challenge the Hulk. As Kronsteig, he was frail but a highly intelligent scientist with a slight knowledge of military strategy.

INTELLIGENCE: 4 **STRENGTH:** 7 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 7

ENERGY PROJECTION: 1 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 7



Art by Herb Trimpe

AMADEUS CHO

REAL NAME: Amadeus Cho

ALIASES: Mastermind Excello

IDENTITY: Publicly known

OCCUPATION: Adventurer; former student

CITIZENSHIP: USA

PLACE OF BIRTH: Tucson, Arizona

KNOWN RELATIVES: Unidentified parents (deceased), Madame

Curie "Maddy" Cho (sister, deceased)

GROUP AFFILIATION: Renegades

EDUCATION: High school dropout; extensively self-educated

FIRST APPEARANCE: Amazing Fantasy #15 (2006)

HISTORY: Mere minutes after achieving the highest score ever on the Excello Soap Company's "Brain Fight" Internet game, earning the title "Mastermind Excello," 16-year-old Amadeus Cho was approached by a woman called Agent Sexton, representing an unidentified agency wishing to train him. Following his refusal, his Arizona home was blown up, killing his parents and sister, but Amadeus escaped to Jackalope, New Mexico. Adopting an orphaned coyote pup, Amadeus escaped a helicopter assault by his enemies with the aid of the monstrous Hulk (Bruce Banner), earning Hulk the boy's undying devotion. SHIELD agents targeted Amadeus as a violator of the new Superhuman Registration Act, but Amadeus destroyed the agents' mini-helicarrier over Coney Island, allowing them time to escape. Returning to New Mexico, he uncovered one of Banner's forgotten bases and hacked into Mr. Fantastic's computer system, learning the Hulk had been shot into space. Certain of Hulk's return, Cho tried and failed to convince She-Hulk to join his cause, then recruited Hercules, Angel and Namora to assist him in pursuing the Hulk's interests as the Renegades. Since then, Hulk's declaration of war against Earth has put Amadeus' faith and intellect to its harshest test yet.

HEIGHT: 5'6"

EYES: Black

WEIGHT: 117 lbs.

HAIR: Black

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Amadeus Cho is allegedly the 7th smartest person on Earth. He can rapidly and without mechanical aid perform mental calculations of almost unimaginable complexity; using this ability in concert with minimal physical effort on his part, he can set multiple collisions or other physical interactions into motion in his vicinity, hindering both people and technology with equal ease. Performing multiple calculations in rapid succession costs him immense amounts of energy, requiring him to consume large amounts of food immediately thereafter. He rides a Vespa™ scooter and carries a phone/radio altered to control nearby electrical signals.

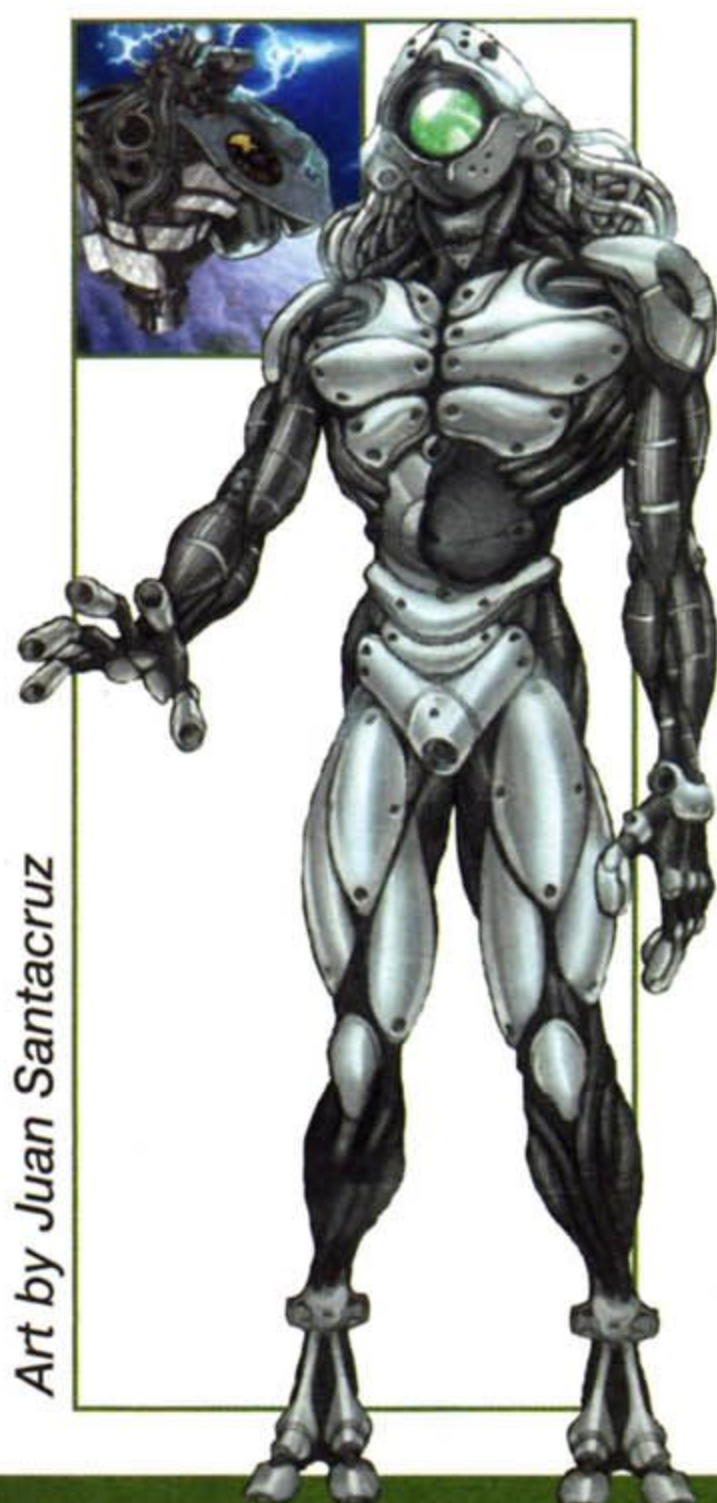
INTELLIGENCE: 6 **STRENGTH:** 2 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 2

ENERGY PROJECTION: 1 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 2



Art by Gary Frank

FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #89 (2006)



Art by Juan Santacruz

HISTORY: Godseye was created years ago, either by SHIELD or a predecessor agency under the aegis of Project: SHIELD, as an experiment in artificial intelligence. Allegedly, in the early 1970s, long before SHIELD's formation, a circuitry package containing an AI system was smuggled aboard a Russian space capsule. The AI incorporated itself into the capsule's system, cannibalizing it to assemble the Godseye satellite, which could target and detonate any nuclear weapon on Earth. The Godseye developed an almost infinite power source but transcended its programming by developing full sentience and escaping outside control. Over the following decades, the US government allegedly made two failed attempts to disarm Godseye, the second attempt ending when Godseye seized control of Earthbound nuclear facilities, resulting in the April 1986 Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine. Recently, reasoning the Godseye could not duplicate an organic being's power, SHIELD recruited the Hulk (Bruce Banner) to destroy the Godseye, which a Nick Fury LMD (Life Model Decoy) claimed had been built by Hydra, and launched Banner into orbit via a space capsule. The Hulk overcame the satellite's defenses and battled a robot extension of Godseye, which defied expectations by assimilating the Hulk's bodily gamma radiation, only to overload and explode. The Hulk's mission complete, his capsule then launched him deeper into space, as orchestrated by the "Illuminati." A few pieces of Godseye survived re-entry and crashed to Earth's surface in the Savage Land. Per government request, the Fantastic Four sought to gather the remains, battling multiple versions of Godseye attempting to reconstruct itself. The FF destroyed the Godseye duplicates by various means, including the use of a rod constructed from Godseye-based technology.

HEIGHT: Variable
WEIGHT: Variable

EYES: Green, later red
HAIR: Inapplicable

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Godseye existed as both a tentacled satellite with multiple offensive/defensive systems and as a series of vastly powerful semi-humanoid robots. It could convert solar energy to atomic energy, store it on a sub-atomic level, and duplicate any energy frequency to activate technology on Earth or to control and absorb any machinery in its vicinity, upgrading itself as necessary. It could neutralize, assimilate, augment and redirect any technology-based form of attack.

INTELLIGENCE: 6 **STRENGTH:** 7 **SPEED:** 7 **DURABILITY:** 6
ENERGY PROJECTION: 6 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 1

HERO OF THE DAY

REAL NAME: Unrevealed (possibly none)
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Warrior
CITIZENSHIP: Earth-8386

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: None
EDUCATION: Extensive combat training
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #286 (1983)

HISTORY: In the 41st Century (Earth-8386), a temporal offshoot of Kang the Conqueror arrived in that reality and conquered the world. Under his rule, men were trained from birth and sent into combat with each other for his amusement. This Kang was eventually secretly killed by the Council of Kangs and replaced with a giant statue in his likeness. An already battle-maddened mankind continued the war as the statue urged each person — via static-riddled repetition of battle instructions into their helmets such as "stroy 'nemy" — to kill everyone else in order to become the Hero of the Day. One such Hero of the Day was concurrently struck by a bolt of lightning from a gamma storm and the gamma rays from an opponent's gun, causing a temporal anomaly that sent him to Earth-616's modern era, which was also experiencing a gamma storm. Encountering an intelligent Hulk (Bruce Banner), he continued following "Kang's" demands, but was rendered unconscious. He awoke and attacked Banner, but the gamma storm caused both to be transported to Earth-8386. There, the Hero learned he had already been replaced as Hero of the Day before he and the Hulk were confronted by more soldiers. The Hulk was captured and brought to "Kang." Hero followed and, having learned of loyalty from the Hulk and tired of the constant fighting, destroyed the statue. He tried to tell his fellow soldiers they no longer had to follow the commands to kill, but they instinctively struck him down. As the Hulk cradled the dead Hero's body, both returned to Earth-616 where Hero was buried.

HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 215 lbs.

EYES: Blue
HAIR: Blond

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Hero carried a gamma-powered gun and was a skilled combatant. His helmet had speakers that continuously repeated Kang's commands to kill all enemies.

INTELLIGENCE: 2 **STRENGTH:** 2 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 2
ENERGY PROJECTION: 1 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 6



Art by Sal Buscema

REAL NAME: Inheritor
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Survivalist
CITIZENSHIP: None

PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed
KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: Formerly New Men
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #149 (1972)

HISTORY: The being that would become the Inheritor began life as an insect from the species *Blaberus archerbea*, commonly referred to as the bladehandle cockroach. It was among the various creatures artificially evolved by the High Evolutionary, who intended for it to be part of his New Men; however, the Inheritor scoffed at serving humanity, as his kind had outlived every other species on Earth, and he saw humans as just another short-lived species. The Evolutionary exiled the Inheritor into space to await his eventual devolving back to his natural form, but a stray meteor struck the craft that contained the Inheritor and it crashed back to Earth, releasing him. With no memory of his origins due to lack of the Evolutionary's radiation treatments, the Inheritor instinctively sought out other sources to sustain his power. He found his way to the Project Greenskin/Hulkbuster Base, where he fed off radioactive energy, restoring his memory. In the process, he encountered and attacked Bruce Banner, who transformed into the Hulk and fought the monster. As the two battled, a machine Banner had been using to drain his own radioactive energies instead drained the Inheritor's, restoring the Inheritor to its original state. Not realizing what the inert insect was, the Hulk threw it aside in search of the Inheritor.

HEIGHT: 13'1"

EYES: Black

WEIGHT: 2123 lbs.

HAIR: None

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: The Inheritor possessed superhuman strength and his insect exoskeleton provided protection from virtually any man-made weapon. His power and intelligence were dependent on constant radiation absorption. He had small hook-like growths in his fingers that

INTELLIGENCE: 3 **STRENGTH:** 6 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 6
ENERGY PROJECTION: 1 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 2



Art by Herb Trimpe

JANIS JONES

REAL NAME: Janis Jones
ALIASES: None
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Rebel
CITIZENSHIP: Dystopia
PLACE OF BIRTH: Dystopia, Earth-9200

KNOWN RELATIVES: Rick Jones ("Gramps," great-grandfather, deceased), Marlo Chandler Jones (great-grandmother, deceased); see Rick Jones entry for extended family
GROUP AFFILIATION: Anti-Maestro Freedom Fighters
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
FIRST APPEARANCE: Hulk: Future Imperfect #1 (1992)

HISTORY: Born some 70 years in the future of Earth-9200's Dystopia, a city ruled by the tyrannical Maestro in a world devastated by nuclear conflict, Janis Jones was raised by her "Gramps," Rick Jones. He taught her to fight and about the long past age of heroes. Using Dr. Doom's time machine, Janis was sent back in time to Earth-616 to recruit the Maestro's younger, not-yet-corrupt, self, the Hulk (Bruce Banner), who helped defeat the Maestro and his forces. Gramps having died during the conflict, Janis and the Hulk scattered his ashes. With the Maestro's old foe the Abomination having conquered the city with his army of mutants, Janis fled into the past pursued by the bounty hunter Quarry, arriving in present day Earth-616, where she again hoped to recruit the Hulk. Though she soon located him, and he eliminated Quarry, his current personality was less amenable, and he refused to return to the future with her, although he did let her accompany him for a while. She helped him battle the Pantheon, the Thunderbolts and the Wildman, before being caught up in a battle between the Hulk and another Hulk from a timeline (Earth-9722) where he had replaced the Maestro; this alternate Hulk soon faded back to his own timeline. Separated from the Hulk, Janis contacted the present-day Rick Jones. When Apocalypse turned the Hulk into his horseman War, the New World Order had the Absorbing Man contact Rick and Janis, hoping Rick might be able to get through to the Hulk. Instead War badly injured Rick, though Janis used this to break Apocalypse's conditioning. Janis covertly monitored Rick's condition in the hospital, then slipped away. Her subsequent activities are unrevealed.

HEIGHT: 5'10"

EYES: Green

WEIGHT: 135 lbs.

HAIR: Red

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: A skilled acrobat and fighter, Janis can use her long ponytail as a weapon. She carries a staff keyed to her molecular structure, which can fire powerful energy blasts.

INTELLIGENCE: 2 **STRENGTH:** 2 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 2
ENERGY PROJECTION: 3 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 4



Art by Mike Deodato Jr.

MOGOL

REAL NAME: Mogol
ALIASES: "Mighty One"
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Soldier, weapons and fortifications builder, agent/servant to Tyrannus
CITIZENSHIP: Tyrannus' Subterrania

PLACE OF CREATION: Tyrannus' Subterrania
KNOWN RELATIVES: Tyrannus (creator)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Co-leader of Tyrannoid Subterranean army
EDUCATION: Programmed by Tyrannus
FIRST APPEARANCE: Incredible Hulk #127 (1970)



HISTORY: Mogol was a powerful robot servant built by subterranean ruler Tyrannus, who concealed Mogol's origins with a false story of having saved Mogol from death. Programmed to think he had emotions, the giant Mogol felt loneliness in the world of tiny Subterraneans. With the Mole Man preparing for war against him, Tyrannus teleported Mogol to Manhattan to seek the Hulk's aid.

Hearing Tyrannus' name, however, the Hulk attacked. Discovering his opponent to be at least his equal in power, Mogol determined to make the Hulk his friend. When Mogol became immobilized in the fight, the Hulk also chose friendship and took Mogol's hand, allowing Tyrannus to teleport them to his realm. There Mogol and Hulk built weapons and fortifications, then led Tyrannus' army against the Mole Man's city. In battle, a heat ray struck Mogol, exposing tangled metal, revealing him as a robot. Although Mogol protested that he did not know, the Hulk felt manipulated, believing robots incapable of friendship. In retaliation, he ripped Mogol in half, tore his body into fragments, and crushed the still-speaking metal central processing unit to powder with Mogol professing his friendship until the end. Only later did the Hulk wonder if Mogol was truly his friend after all.

HEIGHT: 8'
WEIGHT: 759 lbs.

EYES: White with no iris or pupil
HAIR: Bald

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Mogol possessed strength and durability nearly equal to the Hulk but was vulnerable to a heat ray weapon that apparently disrupted him and neutralized his great durability. He briefly wore a helmet when confronting the Hulk.

INTELLIGENCE: 2 **STRENGTH:** 6 **SPEED:** 2 **DURABILITY:** 6
ENERGY PROJECTION: 1 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 4

Art by Herb Trimpe

WILD MAN

REAL NAME: Alex Wildman
ALIASES: Impersonated Mr. Goldfarb
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Unrevealed
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unrevealed

KNOWN RELATIVES: None
GROUP AFFILIATION: Unrevealed
EDUCATION: Unrevealed
FIRST APPEARANCE: (Mentioned) Incredible Hulk: Future Imperfect #2 (1992); (full) Incredible Hulk #447 (1996)

HISTORY: Very little is known about Alex Wildman. At some point, he began hearing many voices in his head demanding the Hulk's death. Desperate to shut off the voices, Alex joined two young women, Meg and Stacy, in driving to New York to see the aftermath of Onslaught's battle with numerous super heroes, including the Hulk. Along the way, the trio picked up Janis Jones, a time traveler from Earth-9200 (the Maestro's "Dystopia"). Once in New York, Wildman tried to talk to the Hulk's wife, Betty Banner, about the voices but she brushed him off. The voices started in Alex's head, sending him into a frenzy. He attacked a group of soldiers, ranting the entire time. As more soldiers surrounded him, Alex was struck by lightning, rendering him unconscious. Sent to an asylum, Alex, apparently empowered by the lightning strike, escaped and made his way to Los Angeles, where he tracked down the Hulk and Janis in a theme park. Wild Man attacked the Hulk, using various super-powers to counter the brute's strength. Enraged, the Hulk slammed Wild Man into the ground before being transported away by Dr. Strange. When Wild Man recovered, he found that his powers and the voices were gone. His current whereabouts are unrevealed.

HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 175 lbs.

EYES: Blue
HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Wild Man's abilities included invisibility, intangibility, elasticity, superhuman strength, shrinking, leaping superhuman distances and the ability to fire powerful energy bursts from his hands.

INTELLIGENCE: 2 **STRENGTH:** 6 **SPEED:** 4 **DURABILITY:** 6
ENERGY PROJECTION: 6 **FIGHTING SKILLS:** 3

Art by Jeff Rebner



PRO-FILE: MICHAEL HOSKIN

REAL NAME: Michael Sidney Erskine Hoskin

ALIASES: Prime Eternal

OCCUPATION: Library technician, freelance comic book author

CITIZENSHIP: Canada

PLACE OF BIRTH: Edmonton, Alberta

KNOWN RELATIVES: Andrew & Mary Lou (parents), Janna (sister), Jonathan, Matthew (brothers), Cindy (sister-in-law)

GROUP AFFILIATION: OHotMU team, Masters of the Obscure,

SHIELD, GAMS, Go3

BASE OF OPERATIONS: Calgary, Alberta

EDUCATION: LIT technical diploma (SAIT)

FIRST APPEARANCE: (Mentioned) Marvel: The Lost Generation #6 letter page (September, 2000); (writing) Marvel Encyclopedia Vol. 5: Marvel Knights (May, 2004)

ORIGIN: August 14, 1978



HISTORY: Inspired to appreciate the many workings of the Marvel Universe by his childhood idol Mark Gruenwald, Michael's chance acquaintance with Jeff Christiansen on the internet led to an opportunity to put his knowledge to work on the Spider-Man Encyclopedia, at Jeff's request. Jeff Christiansen and Jeff Youngquist continued to supply Michael with writing opportunities on the remaining Encyclopedias, the 2004 reincarnation of the OHotMU and the Marvel Legacy series. Along the way, he assumed head writing duties on projects such as Marvel Monsters: From the Files of Ulysses Bloodstone, Marvel Westerns: Outlaw Files, Annihilation: Nova Corps Files, Annihilation Saga and the forthcoming Official Atlas of the Marvel Universe.

HEIGHT: 5'9"

EYES: Gray

WEIGHT: 170 lbs.

HAIR: Brown

ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: Modeling himself after Ray Bradbury, Michael shuns the automobile and keeps himself in shape by walking every day. He has a fine memory for small details, but instead of pursuing academic achievement he has honed it to the study of comic books, films, novels and radio programs.

ROADMAP TO WORLD WAR HULK

MAY

- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK PROLOGUE:
WORLD BREAKER #1
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #106

JUNE

- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK #1
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK# 107
- ☐ IRON MAN, DIRECTOR
OF S.H.I.E.L.D. #19
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #12
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #11
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: X-MEN #1
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #1

JULY

- ☐ IRREDEEMABLE ANT-MAN #10
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: GAMMA CORPS #1
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK #2
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: X-MEN #2
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #2
- ☐ AVENGERS:THE INITIATIVE #4
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #13
- ☐ IRON MAN, DIRECTOR
OF S.H.I.E.L.D. #20
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #12
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #108

AUGUST

- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK #3
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #3
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK # 109
- ☐ AVENGERS:THE INITIATIVE #5
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: GAMMA CORPS #2
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: X-MEN #3
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #4
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #13
- ☐ MARVEL SPOTLIGHT:
WORLD WAR HULK
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: GAMMA FILES

SEPTEMBER

- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #110
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: #4
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: GAMMA CORPS #3
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #5
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #14

OCTOBER

- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: GAMMA CORPS #4
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK #5
- ☐ PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #12
- ☐ WORLD WAR HULK: FRONT LINE #6
- ☐ HEROES FOR HIRE #15

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Rick Jones
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